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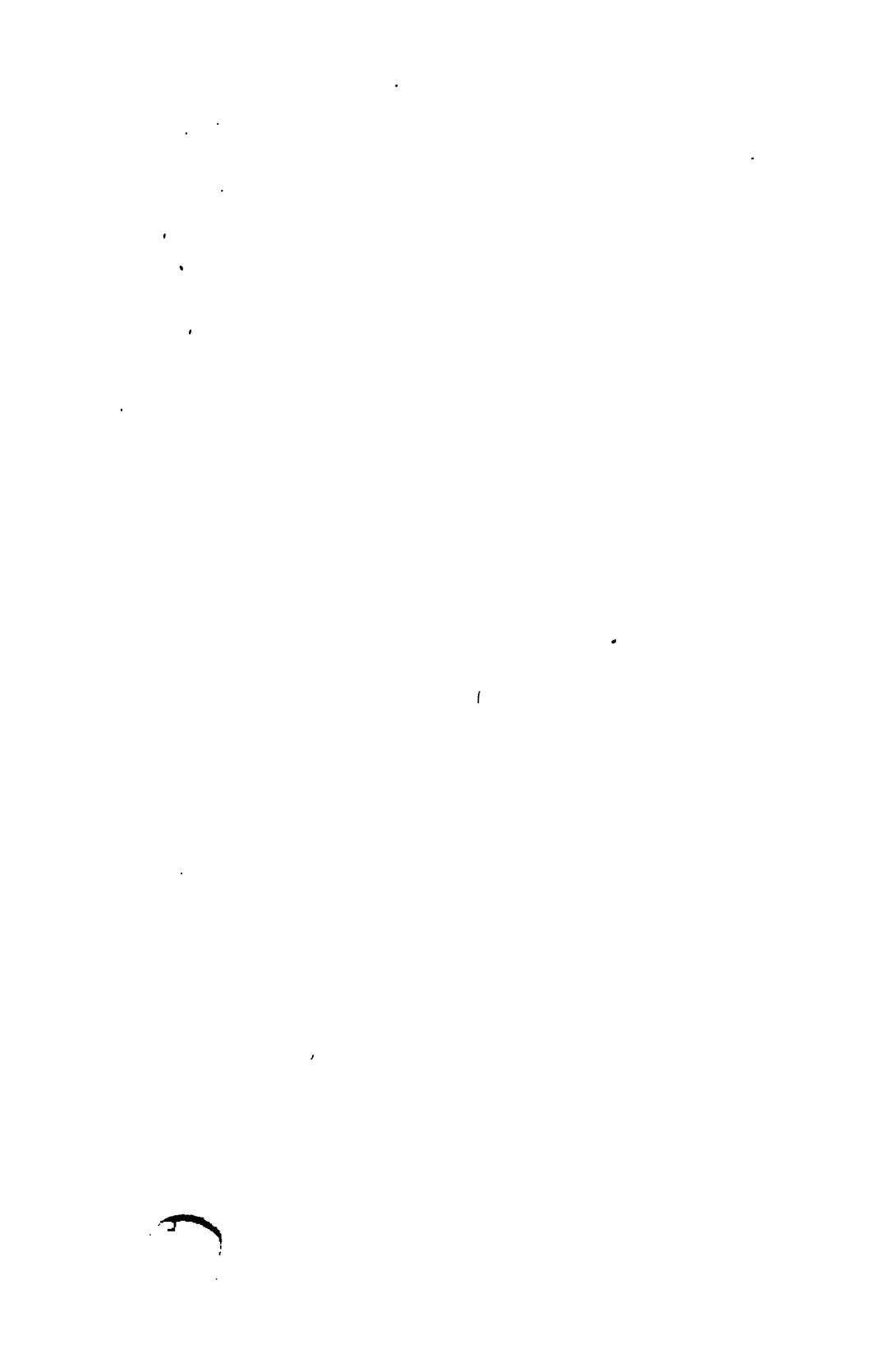
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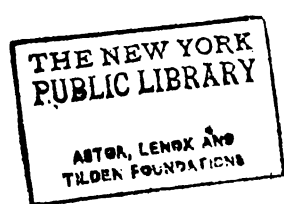


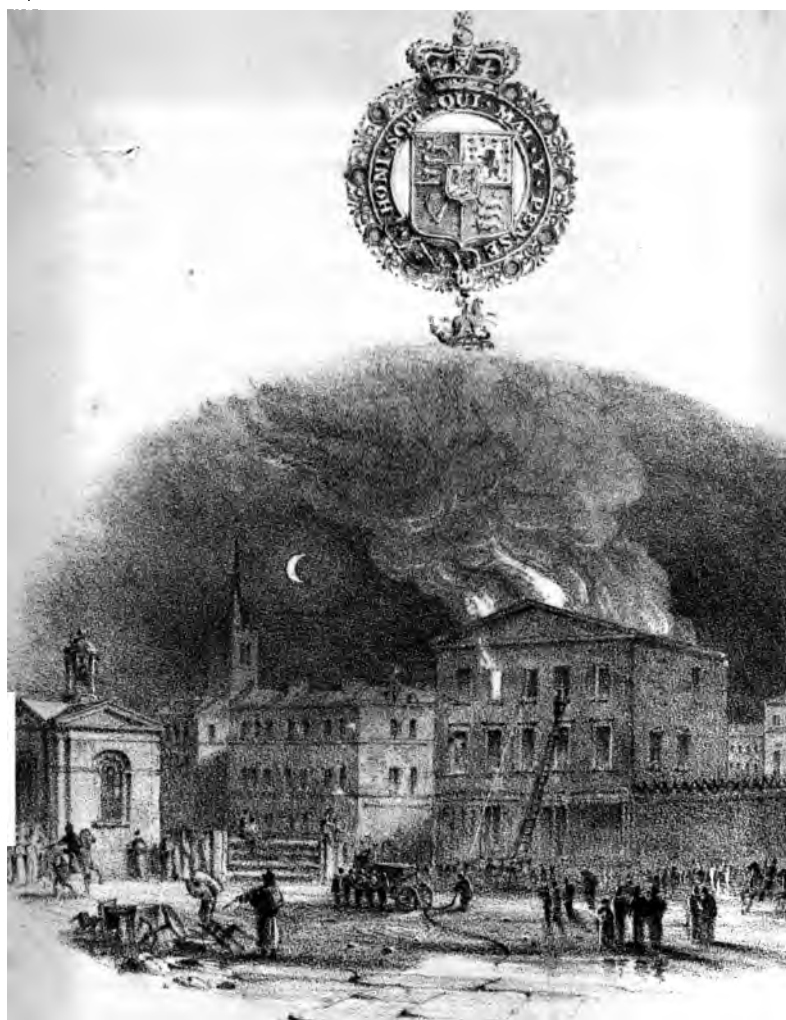
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THE TOCSIN;

OR,

A REVIEW

OF THE

LONDON POLICE ESTABLISHMENTS,

WITH

HINTS FOR THEIR IMPROVEMENT,

AND FOR

THE PREVENTION OF CALAMITOUS FIRES,

&c.

BY THOS. B. W. DUDLEY.

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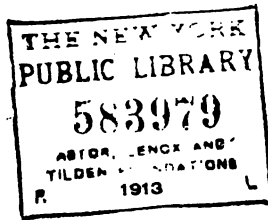
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ROY VAN
ALLEN
VAN ALLEN

INTRODUCTION.

"Take sound advice proceeding from a heart
Sincerely yours, and free from fraudulent art."—**DRYDEN.**

THE extensive robberies that have been committed of late, have called for the general observations of the public on the defective state of the Police; and much surprise has been manifested, that some more vigorous plans have not been adopted to secure property.

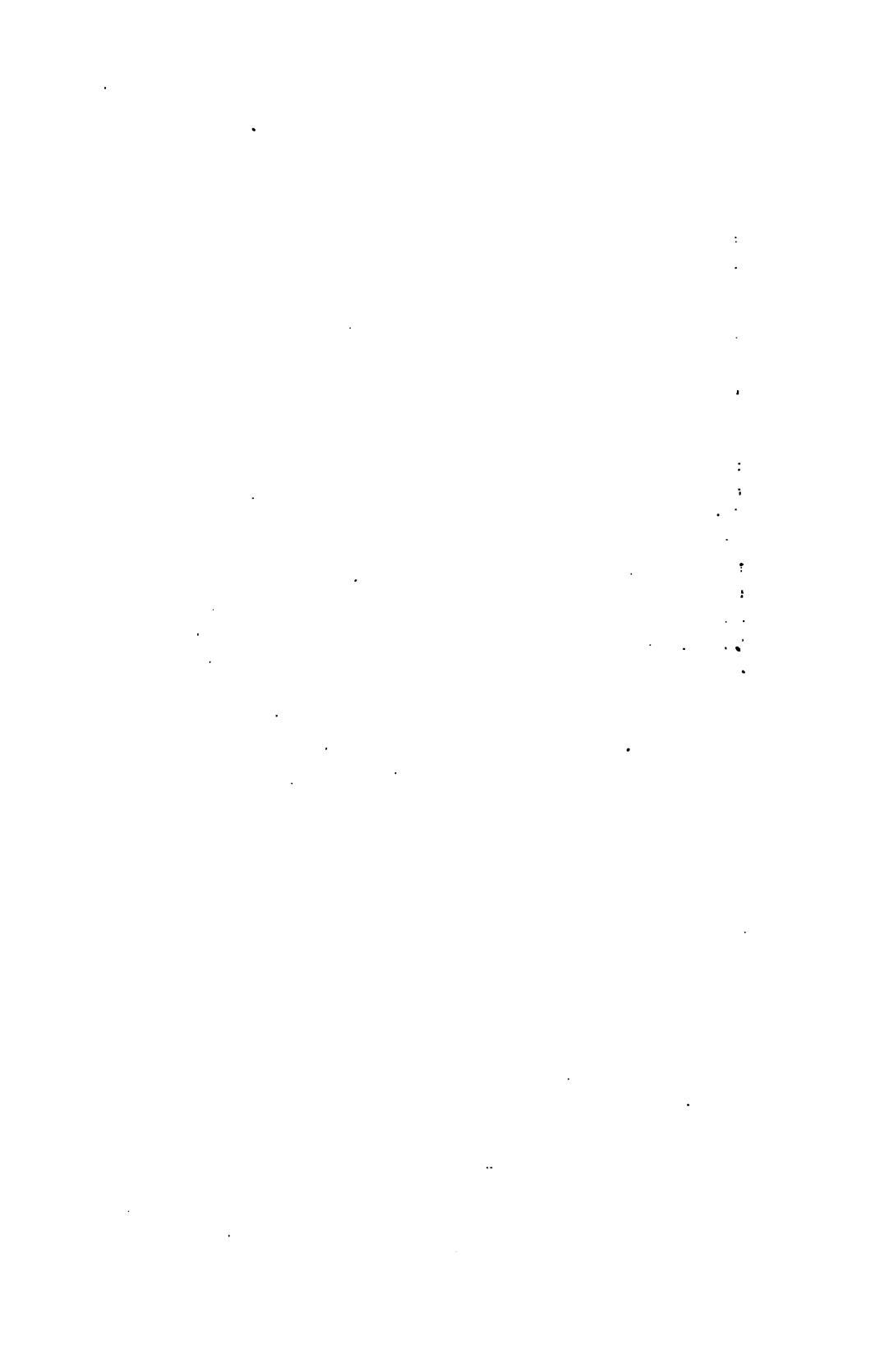
Those which have been suggested for improving the nightly watch in the city, have, after many discussions, at last been abandoned; and the evil complained of left without a remedy. Mr. Secretary Peel succeeded in establishing a permanent horse patrol, which has given confidence to the traveller, and ample satisfaction to the public; and our great public roads, around the metropolis, may now be said to be clear of Highwaymen and Footpads. The day patrols would be equally useful, if sufficiently numerous, but these men are rarely seen near the haunts of thieves: they should occasionally visit the purlieus of London; those sinks of iniquity should often be inspected by the police, as well as perambulating the most public places of resort. The nightly watch is the most deficient; it ought to be the most powerful and effective. Here another class of protectors (so called) assume their various rambles, calling the hours to the slumbering mortals who have prayed for protection from murder and thieves, and who hope to find their property safe in the morning. How often are they cruelly disappointed, on finding that property, so hardly earned by study and industry, carried off by merciless intruders. This branch of our police, which is the most important, is too obviously the most neglected. How many watchmen are old and infirm; men quite unfit for the service, and employed by day as porters or labourers to make up sufficient means to support themselves and families; the watchmen's pay not being more than half sufficient for their maintenance. An old man, a

rattle, stick, and lanthorn, are all we have to depend upon for the security of our lives and property in the night time; every house-keeper must pay his share for watching, paving, and lighting; the two last have been of late years so well managed and improved, as to become the theme of general satisfaction to the public; but the watching is very badly paid, and, of course, badly performed. No wonder that, unless a poor watchman be a mortal made of materials impenetrable to wind and water, that, in a severe and changeable climate like that of England, and in our long, dreary, winter nights (and, in some cases, without any shelter from the stormy seasons), he should be glad to accept a little refreshment when offered out of kindness, to fortify his benumbed frame against the inclemency of the weather. Hodge's best Gin is too strong a temptation for his moral capacity; and many robberies are going forward while the spirits are going inwardly. Now the police officers have the best of it, they are snugly roosting all this time, and, after a comfortable night's rest and a good breakfast, they are ready to appear, about 11 o'clock in the morning, respectable, at the offices they belong to, and the magistrates are ready about the same time to hear the nightly charges made against disorderly characters, and information laid of robberies committed; but rarely do you hear of the thieves being caught, that appears, as a matter of course, to be left to the police officers for their daily employment. Indeed so ludicrous have been the night charges of late, and the reporters so clever in embellishing and giving a finish to the *faux-pas* committed, that it has become, to the public, a source of amusement, rather than of utility, to read the daily police reports; and, as in the fable of the boy and the frogs, the sufferers may exclaim, what is fun for you is death to me. If you had ever lost your property, and applied to the police for its restitution, you would find that you would incur some expense before you had a chance of recovering your losses; and, after dangling about, day after day, all over London, obtaining a search warrant for one place or the other, with the vexatious feeling and chagrin of being robbed of your property; paying and feeding a police officer to find it, and losing your valuable time to no purpose; is it to be wondered, that a person so situated should yield to any overture made to him to recover any part of his property, when there is evidently no other earthly hope of regaining it? generally, if the property consists in plate, or other valuable goods, the police officers will be honest enough to give you little hopes of recovery; and all that they can recommend

you to do will be the publishing of hand bills, giving a description of any identity that may be marked upon them.—Alas! it is now too late; the plate, no doubt, by this time is at the bottom of a crucible, and all further pursuit is vain: and it very seldom occurs that a house-breaker is taken by a watchman; or the robbery otherwise known to the police than by information from the unfortunate losers; and in ninety nine out of a hundred cases of robbery, not any part of the property is recovered, except in the way of accommodation with the receivers, which scandalous traffic is not new; but when property of considerable magnitude is disposed of in this way, it will agitate the public mind some time, when shortly all is quiet again; and yet no steps are taken to put a stop to such shameful proceedings. A friend of mine, a watch-maker, was robbed some years ago of all his stock in trade. After a time, a youth of bad reputation was taken up, and convicted of having a sovereign in his possession, which had been marked by the prosecutor, and sworn to by him as having been taken from his cash box. The youth suffered for the above crime; he was executed at the Old Bailey. Many fruitless attempts were made by the prosecutor to recover his losses to no purpose; at last an offer was made to him to restore the property, from the receiver, with an assurance that if he did not accept of the negotiation, he would never have an opportunity again offered to him, as his property would, immediately on his answer being received in the negative, be sent abroad. The thieves sell the property, for what they can get, to the receivers; and the receivers negotiate, by means of a third party, with the loser, if they can, for the restitution of the property, receiving, upon what they have given the thieves, from one to five hundred per cent. Such are the dark and mysterious dealings, and such the fence and impenetrable barrier, surrounding all the parties concerned, who are all equally guilty and liable, or ought to be, to the same punishment. Then comes the hush-money—if any danger be apprehended of a discovery; this money is like quick-silver, it is always a fluid, can be divided, on the instant, into innumerable parts, requiring no crucible, bearing no identity, and still as the grave. I am sorry to say that it has soiled the most delicate hands; and in my opinion its sources will never be known until the day of the restitution of all things. God made man upright, but he has sought out many evil inventions. Under these circumstances what is a man to do, who has suffered the loss of property? the chance of obtaining it through the means of the

police is almost hopeless; his own efforts vain; he is compelled, although his honest heart recoils at the idea, to purchase what has been stolen from him, that he may not be entirely wrecked; his business being stopped, and his credit ruined and exposed to the cruel remarks of some illiberal neighbours. Government only can remedy the evil (which I shall endeavour to elucidate hereafter), by introducing a preventive system of police, powerful, united, and operating in concord with the auxiliary branches. Observe what has been done by the preventive system along our coast. "What," says the smuggler, "now the risk is too great, it is not worth while to smuggle; I am not going to lie in prison without a fair chance;" as if he had a right to expect it from government; such a preventive system, generally applied, is the basis of my plan in this publication. And I think it more christian-like than making strong codes of laws, which are often neglected to be put in force through the merciful considerations of the prosecutors. Let every difficulty and stumbling block be placed in the way of thieves, and let those who have property remember the old adage, "safe bind, safe find," by doing all in their power to secure what they possess; and to place every obstacle in the way of its being removed, and to encourage and reward honesty, sobriety, and industry, in those who have the care of their property, then robberies will diminish, and the strong holds of thieves and fences break down. My observations on housebreaking will contain the most effectual methods of securing dwelling houses and warehouses from burglary, obtained from twenty years' research and observation, often attended with danger, expense, and inconvenience. Fifteen years ago I had written on the subject, and submitted my remarks to several gentlemen, who recommended me to publish; but my father considered it would be dangerous: however, as the evil has increased rather than diminished, I have ventured to offer this humble attempt on my part, with a desire to be useful in saving not only the property but the lives of my countrymen; and hope it may be the means of doing some good, and lead to a more complete organization of the police. My remarks on the important duty of servants having the care of their masters' property, will, I trust, be acceptable to both master and servant. Having performed the duty of parish constable, for one year, in St. Ann's, Westminster, in my own right, I have pointed out the defects, in the manner of selecting persons to serve this very ancient and respectable office, and the contempt in which the office is now held by respectable

inhabitants. The government should not allow substitutes, and the officer should be remunerated for his services : there requires great amendment to be made ; the office is generally performed in a very slovenly, shuffling, manner, and His Majesty's crown often exposed to great indignity thereby, and the protecting of His Majesty's peaceable subjects a mere bagatelle. I have submitted to the public the best means for preventing fires, and the methods to be adopted in building houses, warehouses, &c., fire-proof, which likewise have the desired effect of preventing the cankerous and destructive consequences of the dry rot in buildings, and the saving of expenses in assurance from fire ; and pointed out the speedy application of fire escapes, with a recommendation to parish officers to perform the important duty entrusted to them—the preservation of the lives of their parishioners from fire, and their attention to the useful state of the fire engine, and supply of water. No attempt having been made to prevent effectually the crime of horse stealing, I have suggested a plan, which will operate as a check, if not entirely prevent the commission of the offence : some general remarks on prisons, and preventatives against going to them ; I shall conclude the whole with a short biography of my own life and circumstances.



THE TOCSIN.

THE NIGHTLY WATCH.

THE Nightly Watch, a branch of the police, is a considerable body of men appointed by the various parishes in the cities of London and Westminster, and the parishes adjacent, for the purpose of protecting the property of the inhabitants in the night-time, and removing disorderly characters to a place of confinement, until they are brought up in the morning, about eleven o'clock, by the constable of the night, to be disposed of as the magistrates may direct. The government of this body of men is deputed to a committee, called the Watch Committee, appointed by the parish officers; these men fix the rate of wages; employ whom they please, and discharge them at their pleasure; erect watch boxes, or take them down; order lanterns, or dispense with them; in fact, do as they please with the arrangement of the watchmen: it is not easy to find out how they are appointed, and when once in the Committee, they are seldom known to retire. I have never heard of a respectable housekeeper who has served the office of constable in his own right having been appointed as one of this junto. I should (from having had experience in the situation) have thought such a person the most proper and the most deserving to have filled the office: and I never heard that any accounts of the watch committee are ever audited; they are jumbled together with cleansing, paving, and lighting; what becomes of the fines (eight pounds) paid by persons who refuse to act as parish constable? they must amount to a considerable sum every year. This watch committee is badly constructed;

it must be composed of men not possessing sufficient knowledge for the situations they fill, or too idle to do the duty they owe to the public, otherwise there would not be the continual complaints made of the inefficient means adopted by them to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants, and the parishes which pay for their services. It is reported that King Henry VIII. occasionally went round the city to see if the watchmen were on duty; the staff used by the King is to be seen at the Tower, and a very formidable one it is, very likely to have commanded the greatest respect: I never heard of these committee men following such an excellent example. So it appears our guardians of the night are of ancient date, and the watch committee, out of respect to its antiquity, generally select old men to do the duty of crying the hour, walking with a stick, and carrying a lanthorn. Their services have of late years been made matter of sport for the gay youths of London, by a performance called Tom, Jerry, and Logic, which has been by no means to the credit of the committee-men, or our worthy guardians of the night, by dubbing them with the name of Charley; whether this name originated with the sports which King Charles II. and his favourite, the Earl of Rochester, had with these heroes with a stick and lanthorn, I must leave to the historian to determine; but certain it is, there are more frolicks brought to light than thefts and robberies. This, as I have observed before, is left for the day police officers to find out, after the robbery has been committed, and the plunder conveyed beyond their reach. I have now arrived at the most important recommendation—I have to suggest to government to fill up the chasm where it is most wanted in this great metropolis, of a night police, to be placed under the immediate direction of the Secretary of State for the home department, of efficient, well paid, officers of approved integrity and experience; and the police offices never to be closed; but to be open, at all times to receive information, and officers always ready to act on the instant; when such a plan is established, I have no

doubt that burglaries of every description will diminish. I will appeal to any nobleman, merchant, or tradesman, who has valuable property at stake, whether it be not the case, that, like the owls, bats, foxes, wolves, and beasts of prey, the thieves are creeping from their hiding places in the night time seeking whom they may devour—merciless intruders, like Macbeth, they murder sleep. I will ask any reasonable man, why the various police offices should not be open during the night time, as well as in the day; if they were, informations would immediately be made to the office nearest the robbery the instant it was committed, at any hour of the night, and the officers in attendance, well armed, despatched to the fences and rendezvous of thieves, when, no doubt, property would be traced and recovered before there would be time allowed the thieves to dispose of it, and the thieves often secured; likewise property at fires would be much better protected, and commotions and riots prevented; as it is now, an alarm is given to the watchman, the rattle is sprung, and often a dozen or so are collected; in they all go, to do what? Catch the thieves? No, they have absconded long ago, and perhaps an accomplice waits to give the watchman a wrong scent; away they go to the watch-house, the constable can do no more than enter the information in the charge book; where's the magistrate?—Why, in bed; you do not suppose that a magistrate will sit up all night to be annoyed, for only eight-hundred a year.—Then where is a police officer? in bed to be sure; he will be up in the morning at eleven o'clock at the office, to look after the property, and examine the house robbed, to see what sort of a job it was, when a handsome reward for the apprehension of the thieves is recommended, and of course duly advertised, hand bills printed, &c. Thus you see what a chasm there is in our Night Police; by this time, plate is melted, jewellery dismounted, watches taken from their cases, crests, names, initials, armorial bearings, and all identity obliterated; and the thieves revelling over the spoils without fear of detection.

And why should police officers be exempt from night duty any more than constables who receive no pay, and the poor watchmen who are badly paid? and what can be the motive for shutting up the police offices at a time when they are most wanted, and would be of the greatest possible service to the public? I have no doubt the Secretary of State will see the propriety of establishing a permanent Night Police, well armed, and well paid, as very little dependence can ever be placed in parish watchmen, and as Government do not pay them, I suppose they cannot with propriety interfere with parish regulations. There is, however, plenty of room for improvement, they should be better paid; attention should be given to character by two housekeepers; and healthy men, not more than fifty, and not younger than thirty should be employed; the dangling lanthorn should be done away with, and one fixed around the waist with a belt, and a slide to darken the light when engaged in any enterprise substituted, this would leave their arms at liberty, and of course make them more useful and powerful. They should commence watching at dusk, as many robberies are committed by juvenile offenders at the time called between the lights, and they should not leave off watching until eight o'clock in the morning; they should be relieved once in the night, and the time of watching equally divided between them; they should relieve on their beat, and the watchman going off his beat should communicate any suspicious circumstances or characters to the watchman coming on his beat, and likewise give any information that may be necessary to the Constable of the Night before he goes home, which information should be entered in the charge book, as a memorandum which may be useful hereafter to the police. The hour of the night should be called, as it is useful to many persons when about to travel, or that require to rise early, and answers as a check on the Watchmen to be on their beats, as out of the number of houses which he may have to pass, it is probable some persons may hear him. Fire arms may not be

necessary, and not being acquainted with the proper use of them, or out of practice, he might shoot the pigeon instead of the crow; they are at any rate dangerous weapons to be put in unskilful hands, and to be used in public streets; a stout oak stick with a dirk in it, or a short sword, at most should be allowed; the rattle is a useful instrument to alarm a neighbourhood, in case of fire: I have known lives saved by its timely use; and the public will do well when they hear a rattle sprung in the night to attend to it immediately.

PARISH CONSTABLES.

I cannot commence my remarks on the abuse of this most ancient and respected Peace Officer, better than by first giving you the authority of William Lambard, of Lincoln's Inn, Gent., published in the year 1619, which shows the importance of the office at that time. "The name constable is made (as I have read) of two English words put together, namely, cuning (or cyng) and staple, which do signifie ye stay (or hold) of the King, for by the auncient custome of this realm, their is a great officer called the Constable of England, and who, by means of the high authoritie that he had, was a principall stay unto the King's Governement; and this man had iurisdiction and authoritie in deeds of arms and matters of war, both within and without the realm. Out of which office this Tower Constablenesship was at the first drawn and fetched and is, (as it were) a very finger of that hand, for this statute of Winchester which was made in the time of King Edward I., and by which these Tower Constables of Hundreds and Franchises were first ordained, doth (amongst other things) appoint that for the better keeping of the Peace, two Constables in everie Hundred and Franchise should make the view of Armor.

"Furthermore, it was then also ordained, that if any man were of so evil credite that he could not git himself to be re-

rattle, stick, and lanthorn, are all we have to depend upon for the security of our lives and property in the night time; every house-keeper must pay his share for watching, paving, and lighting; the two last have been of late years so well managed and improved, as to become the theme of general satisfaction to the public; but the watching is very badly paid, and, of course, badly performed. No wonder that, unless a poor watchman be a mortal made of materials impene- trable to wind and water, that, in a severe and changeable climate like that of England, and in our long, dreary, winter nights (and, in some cases, without any shelter from the stormy seasons), he should be glad to accept a little refreshment when offered out of kindness, to fortify his benumbed frame against the inclemency of the weather. Hodge's best *Gin* is too strong a temptation for his moral capacity; and many robberies are going forward while the spirits are going inwardly. Now the police officers have the best of it, they are saugly roosting all this time, and, after a comfortable night's rest and a good breakfast, they are ready to appear, about 11 o'clock in the morning, respectable, at the offices they belong to, and the magistrates are ready about the same time to hear the nightly charges made against disorderly characters, and information laid of robberies committed; but rarely do you hear of the thieves being caught, that appears, as a matter of course, to be left to the police officers for their daily employment. Indeed so ludicrous have been the night charges of late, and the reporters so clever in embellishing and giving a finish to the *faux-pas* committed, that it has become, to the public, a source of amusement, rather than of utility, to read the daily police reports; and, as in the fable of the boy and the frogs, the sufferers may exclaim, what is fun for you is death to me. If you had ever lost your property, and applied to the police for its restitution, you would find that you would incur some expense before you had a chance of recovering your losses; and, after dangling about day after day, all over London, obtaining a search warrant for one place or the other, with the vexatious feeling and chagrin of being robbed of your property; paying and feeding a police officer to find it; and losing your valuable time to no purpose; is it to be wondered, that a person so situated should yield to any overture made to him to recover any part of his property, when there is evidently no other earthly hope of regaining it? generally, if the property consists in plate, or other valuable goods, the police officers will be honest enough to give you little hopes of recovery; and all that they can recommend

you to do will be the publishing of hand bills, giving a description of any identity that may be marked upon them.—Alas! it is now too late; the plate, no doubt, by this time is at the bottom of a crucible, and all further pursuit is vain: and it very seldom occurs that a house-breaker is taken by a watchman; or the robbery otherwise known to the police than by information from the unfortunate losers; and in ninety nine out of a hundred cases of robbery, not any part of the property is recovered, except in the way of accommodation with the receivers, which scandalous traffic is not new; but when property of considerable magnitude is disposed of in this way, it will agitate the public mind some time, when shortly all is quiet again; and yet no steps are taken to put a stop to such shameful proceedings. A friend of mine, a watch-maker, was robbed some years ago of all his stock in trade. After a time, a youth of bad repute was taken up, and convicted of having a sovereign in his possession, which had been marked by the prosecutor, and sworn to by him as having been taken from his cash box. The youth suffered for the above crime; he was executed at the Old Bailey. Many fruitless attempts were made by the prosecutor to recover his losses to no purpose; at last an offer was made to him to restore the property, from the receiver, with an assurance that if he did not accept of the negotiation, he would never have an opportunity again offered to him, as his property would, immediately on his answer being received in the negative, be sent abroad. The thieves sell the property, for what they can get, to the receivers; and the receivers negotiate, by means of a third party, with the loser, if they can, for the restitution of the property, receiving, upon what they have given the thieves, from one to five hundred per cent! Such are the dark and mysterious dealings, and such the fence and impenetrable barrier, surrounding all the parties concerned, who are all equally guilty and liable, or ought to be, to the same punishment.—Then comes the hush-money—if any danger be apprehended of a discovery; this money is like quick-silver, it is always a fluid, can be divided, on the instant, into innumerable parts, requiring no crucible, bearing no identity, and still as the grave. I am sorry to say that it has soiled the most delicate hands; and in my opinion its sources will never be known until the day of the restitution of all things. God made man upright, but he has sought out many evil inventions. Under these circumstances what is a man to do, who has suffered the loss of property? the chance of obtaining it through the means of the

police is almost hopeless; his own efforts vain; he is compelled, although his honest heart recoils at the idea, to purchase what has been stolen from him, that he may not be entirely wrecked; his business being stopped, and his credit ruined and exposed to the cruel remarks of some illiberal neighbours. Government only can remedy the evil (which I shall endeavour to elucidate hereafter), by introducing a preventive system of police, powerful, united, and operating in concord with the auxiliary branches. Observe what has been done by the preventive system along our coast. "What," says the smuggler, "now the risk is too great, it is not worth while to smuggle; I am not going to lie in prison without a fair chance;" as if he had a right to expect it from government; such a preventive system, generally applied, is the basis of my plan in this publication. And I think it more christian-like than making strong codes of laws, which are often neglected to be put in force through the merciful considerations of the prosecutors. Let every difficulty and stumbling block be placed in the way of thieves, and let those who have property remember the old adage, "safe bind, safe find," by doing all in their power to secure what they possess; and to place every obstacle in the way of its being removed, and to encourage and reward honesty, sobriety, and industry, in those who have the care of their property, then robberies will diminish, and the strong holds of thieves and fences break down. My observations on housebreaking will contain the most effectual methods of securing dwelling houses and warehouses from burglary, obtained from twenty years' research and observation, often attended with danger, expense, and inconvenience. Fifteen years ago I had written on the subject, and submitted my remarks to several gentlemen, who recommended me to publish; but my father considered it would be dangerous: however, as the evil has increased rather than diminished, I have ventured to offer this humble attempt on my part, with a desire to be useful in saving not only the property but the lives of my countrymen; and hope it may be the means of doing some good, and lead to a more complete organization of the police. My remarks on the important duty of servants having the care of their masters' property, will, I trust, be acceptable to both master and servant. Having performed the duty of parish constable, for one year, in St. Ann's, Westminster, in my own right, I have pointed out the defects, in the manner of selecting persons to serve this very ancient and respectable office, and the contempt in which the office is now held by respectable

inhabitants. The government should not allow substitutes, and the officer should be remunerated for his services : there requires great amendment to be made ; the office is generally performed in a very slovenly, shuffling, manner, and His Majesty's crown often exposed to great indignity thereby, and the protecting of His Majesty's peaceable subjects a mere bagatelle. I have submitted to the public the best means for preventing fires, and the methods to be adopted in building houses, warehouses, &c., fire-proof, which likewise have the desired effect of preventing the cankerous and destructive consequences of the dry rot in buildings, and the saving of expenses in assurance from fire ; and pointed out the speedy application of fire escapes, with a recommendation to parish officers to perform the important duty entrusted to them—the preservation of the lives of their parishioners from fire, and their attention to the useful state of the fire engine, and supply of water. No attempt having been made to prevent effectually the crime of horse stealing, I have suggested a plan, which will operate as a check, if not entirely prevent the commission of the offence : some general remarks on prisons, and preventatives against going to them ; I shall conclude the whole with a short biography of my own life and circumstances.

THE TOCSIN.

THE NIGHTLY WATCH.

THE Nightly Watch, a branch of the police, is a considerable body of men appointed by the various parishes in the cities of London and Westminster, and the parishes adjacent, for the purpose of protecting the property of the inhabitants in the night-time, and removing disorderly characters to a place of confinement, until they are brought up in the morning, about eleven o'clock, by the constable of the night, to be disposed of as the magistrates may direct. The government of this body of men is deputed to a committee, called the Watch Committee, appointed by the parish officers; these men fix the rate of wages; employ whom they please, and discharge them at their pleasure; erect watch boxes, or take them down; order lanterns, or dispense with them; in fact, do as they please with the arrangement of the watchmen: it is not easy to find out how they are appointed, and when once in the Committee, they are seldom known to retire. I have never heard of a respectable housekeeper who has served the office of constable in his own right having been appointed as one of this junto. I should (from having had experience in the situation) have thought such a person the most proper and the most deserving to have filled the office: and I never heard that any accounts of the watch committee are ever audited; they are jumbled together with cleansing, paving, and lighting; what becomes of the fines (eight pounds) paid by persons who refuse to act as parish constable? they must amount to a considerable sum every year. This watch committee is badly constructed;

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it must be composed of men not possessing sufficient knowledge for the situations they fill, or too idle to do the duty they owe to the public, otherwise there would not be the continual complaints made of the inefficient means adopted by them to protect the lives and property of the inhabitants, and the parishes which pay for their services. It is reported that King Henry VIII. occasionally went round the city to see if the watchmen were on duty; the staff used by the King is to be seen at the Tower, and a very formidable one it is, very likely to have commanded the greatest respect: I never heard of these committee men following such an excellent example. So it appears our guardians of the night are of ancient date, and the watch committee, out of respect to its antiquity, generally select old men to do the duty of crying the hour, walking with a stick, and carrying a lanthorn. Their services have of late years been made matter of sport for the gay youths of London, by a performance called Tom, Jerry, and Logic, which has been by no means to the credit of the committee-men, or our worthy guardians of the night, by dubbing them with the name of Charley; whether this name originated with the sports which King Charles II. and his favourite, the Earl of Rochester, had with these heroes with a stick and lanthorn, I must leave to the historian to determine; but certain it is, there are more frolics brought to light than thefts and robberies. This, as I have observed before, is left for the day police officers to find out, after the robbery has been committed, and the plunder conveyed beyond their reach. I have now arrived at the most important recommendation—I have to suggest to government to fill up the chasm where it is most wanted in this great metropolis, of a night police, to be placed under the immediate direction of the Secretary of State for the home department, of efficient, well paid, officers of approved integrity and experience; and the police offices never to be closed, but to be open, at all times to receive information, and officers always ready to act, on the instant; when such a plan is established, I have no

doubt that burglaries of every description will diminish. I will appeal to any nobleman, merchant, or tradesman, who has valuable property at stake, whether it be not the case, that, like the owls, bats, foxes, wolves, and beasts of prey, the thieves are creeping from their hiding places in the night time seeking whom they may devour—merciless intruders, like Macbeth, they murder sleep. I will ask any reasonable man, why the various police offices should not be open during the night time, as well as in the day; if they were, informations would immediately be made to the office nearest the robbery the instant it was committed, at any hour of the night, and the officers in attendance, well armed, despatched to the fences and rendezvous of thieves, when, no doubt, property would be traced and recovered before there would be time allowed the thieves to dispose of it, and the thieves often secured; likewise property at fires would be much better protected, and commotions and riots prevented; as it is now, an alarm is given to the watchman, the rattle is sprung, and often a dozen or so are collected; in they all go, to do what? Catch the thieves? No, they have absconded long ago, and perhaps an accomplice waits to give the watchman a wrong scent; away they go to the watch-house, the constable can do no more than enter the information in the charge book; where's the magistrate?—Why, in bed; you do not suppose that a magistrate will sit up all night to be annoyed, for only eight-hundred a year.—Then where is a police officer? in bed to be sure; he will be up in the morning at eleven o'clock at the office, to look after the property, and examine the house robbed, to see what sort of a job it was, when a handsome reward for the apprehension of the thieves is recommended, and of course duly advertised, hand bills printed, &c. Thus you see what a chasm there is in our Night Police; by this time, plate is melted, jewellery dismantled, watches taken from their cases, crests, names, initials, armorial bearings, and all identity obliterated; and the thieves revelling over the spoils without fear of detection.

And why should police officers be exempt from night duty any more than constables who receive no pay, and the poor watchmen who are badly paid? and what can be the motive for shutting up the police offices at a time when they are most wanted, and would be of the greatest possible service to the public? I have no doubt the Secretary of State will see the propriety of establishing a permanent Night Police, well armed, and well paid, as very little dependence can ever be placed in parish watchmen, and as Government do not pay them, I suppose they cannot with propriety interfere with parish regulations. There is, however, plenty of room for improvement, they should be better paid; attention should be given to character by two housekeepers; and healthy men, not more than fifty, and not younger than thirty should be employed; the dangling lanthorn should be done away with, and one fixed around the waist with a belt, and a slide to darken the light when engaged in any enterprise substituted, this would leave their arms at liberty, and of course make them more useful and powerful. They should commence watching at dusk, as many robberies are committed by juvenile offenders at the time called between the lights, and they should not leave off watching until eight o'clock in the morning; they should be relieved once in the night, and the time of watching equally divided between them; they should relieve on their beat, and the watchman going off his beat should communicate any suspicious circumstances or characters to the watchman coming on his beat, and likewise give any information that may be necessary to the Constable of the Night before he goes home, which information should be entered in the charge book, as a memorandum which may be useful hereafter to the police. The hour of the night should be called, as it is useful to many persons when about to travel, or that require to rise early, and answers as a check on the Watchmen to be on their beats, as out of the number of houses which he may have to pass, it is probable some persons may hear him. Fire arms may not be,

necessary, and not being acquainted with the proper use of them, or out of practice, he might shoot the pigeon instead of the crow; they are at any rate dangerous weapons to be put in unskilful hands, and to be used in public streets; a stout oak stick with a dirk in it, or a short sword, at most should be allowed; the rattle is a useful instrument to alarm a neighbourhood, in case of fire: I have known lives saved by its timely use; and the public will do well when they hear a rattle sprung in the night to attend to it immediately.

PARISH CONSTABLES.

I cannot commence my remarks on the abuse of this most ancient and respected Peace Officer, better than by first giving you the authority of William Lambard, of Lincoln's Inn, Gent., published in the year 1619, which shows the importance of the office at that time. "The name constable is made (as I have read) of two English words put together, namely, cuning (or cyng) and staple, which do signifie ye stay (or hold) of the King, for by the auncient custome of this realm, their is a great officer called the Constable of England, and who, by means of the high authoritie that he had, was a principall stay unto the King's Governement; and this man had iurisdiction and authoritie in deeds of arms and matters of war, both within and without the realm. Out of which office this Tower Constableship was at the first drawn and fetched and is, (as it were) a very finger of that hand, for this statute of Winchester which was made in the time of King Edward I., and by which these Tower Constables of Hundreds and Franchises were first ordained, doth (amongst other things) appoint that for the better keeping of the Peace, two Constables in everie Hundred and Franchise should make the view of Armor.

"Furthermore, it was then also ordained, that if any man were of so evil credite that he could not git himself to be re-

ceived into one of these Tythings or Boroës, he should be shut up in prison, as a man unworthie to live at liberty among men abroad. The constabships were named Tythings in the western parts, and in Kent Boroës, so that the name Constable in a Hundred or Franchise doth mean that he is an officer that supporteth the King's Maiestie, in the maintenance of the peace within the precinct of his Hundred or Franchise; and he is many times called the High Constable, in comparison of the Constable or Petie Constable that be in the towns or parishes within his Hundred or Franchise, whose part it likewise is to maintaine the peace within the severall limits of their owne towne or parishes.

“Hitherto I have opened the auncient office of the Borsholder, Titthingman, and the rest whereof also their is yet to this day some show or remnant in our Lectes or (Law daies) but if the substance thereof were thoroughly performed, (as I knowe no let but that by law it may,) then should the peace of the Land be much better maintained than now it is.”

From the above facts, it is evident the situation of Parish Constable was much respected in ancient times, when the name of police officers was unknown, and the peace of the realm and his Majesty's crown and dignity supported with a higher respect, as to character, ability, and power; the appointment of a tradesman now to serve the office, is considered a mark of degradation instead of respect, and is generally visited upon those men who have been active in endeavouring to remove nuisances out of a parish, or in any way interfered with parish affairs, so as to displease the gentlemen, as they are called, of Select Vestries; to these self-elected Juntos of modern date may be attributed the great want of energy in parishes removing public and private nuisances: selecting, more justly and properly, constables respectable and able to fill the office; a better arrangement of the nightly watch; and providing the means always at hand to preserve the lives and property of their parishioners from fire. In all my experience in life, the

most assuming petty tyrants I have ever met with, have been purse-proud, ignorant, insolent, and unfeeling tradesmen ; fond of power, they often work themselves into some office in the parish, and then lord it over the poor parishioners, binding burdens on other men's shoulders, when they take care not to touch them with their fingers. The origin and success in business of many of these men, are often enveloped in everlasting mystery, and so they continue to grope after riches, which are the only subject they can talk about ; their only hope in this world and hereafter ; and a poor man in their eyes, however honest and industrious, is made the subject of contempt and reproach, while they ever chuckle at the misfortune of their neighbours, and at calamities which do not affect themselves. I am surprised that Englishmen should so far forget the blessings of liberty, as to be instrumental in shackling themselves, and suffering their domestic affairs, so vital to their interests, to be so grossly neglected, by not employing more energy and attention in getting rid of these mysterious inquisitions, and appointing honourable men, who will do their duty honestly, and with impartiality ; which is more likely to be the case in open vestry, where every householder, paying scot and lot, is admitted to examine the accounts, and have a voice in the administration of parish affairs. About eight years ago, I served the office of parish constable in my own right for one year in St. Ann's, Westminster ; I believe my repeated applications to the vestry to remove some nuisances, annoyed some of the superior tradesmen, and I had the honour to be marked out to serve the office of constable ;—however I took the office, and soon had an opportunity of removing six houses of bad fame, which annoyed my neighbours and myself and family, by presenting them to the grand inquest ; this is the duty of every constable to make presentment of any nuisance complained of by the inhabitant-housekeepers of the ward he is appointed to superintend ; and the public may be assured the grand inquest will do their duty most powerfully and effectually,

in getting rid of them. I do not wonder at respectable tradesmen endeavouring to avoid the office (in the way it is now conducted), for it is attended with a great loss of time, and the continual annoyance of being called out to settle other people's affairs, often to the neglect of their own business; attending the judges to Westminster Hall, the Court Leet, the parliamentary duty, His Majesty's Levees, the billeting of Soldiers, militia, election duty; should there be any while you are serving, attending commotions, and quelling riots, besides your duty to sit up in your turn at the watch-house, which, in St. Ann's, was every eighth night, and next morning to go before a magistrate with your charge book, which may often give you the trouble to attend at the Old Bailey; looking after the public houses in your ward, the fire plugs, gambling houses, and many other things too numerous to mention. The above duties, to perform with any degree of attention, are quite enough to shew any thinking man how his own business is likely to fare during these performances. Many I have no doubt have been ruined with their families, in fulfilling the office of Constable, yet it will be seen how important it is to the public peace, to have men of integrity, intelligence, and perseverance, appointed to the situation; and how can the Public expect that a man who will take this situation as a substitute for a few pounds, can be depended on to do his duty? Why, the thing speaks for itself, he takes it for money, and of course will make all the money he can by it; the allowing of substitutes, brings the constableness into disgrace, and no respectable tradesman who serves in his own right will take any fee or hush money, and until the Government do away with substitutes altogether, this once ancient and respected peace officer will remain neglected, and the public morals, nuisances, and robberies, &c. remain in a great degree unheeded by parish officers. Mr. Lea, our High Constable, having been a tradesman, is well aware of the difficulty and trouble of the office; and I am a witness of his attention to save every man's time as much as possible, who is

serving in his own right. The police should co-operate more agreeably and respectfully with the parish constables; they should remember they are serving their King and country in the capacity of conservators of the peace, and should act with concord for the general good.—Mr. Thomas, serving in his own right as constable of St. Paul's, Covent Garden, is an example of the good one individual can do by perseverance and determination, if not entirely to remove the most dangerous establishments to the corruption of the morals of society, at least to subdue the virulence of them, which is now evident to any person acquainted with the former state of the neighbourhood. Mr. Thomas, on his first attempt to reform these night coffee houses and oyster shops, was not supported by the police; and Sir Richard Birnie seemed to feel jealous of his timely interference, and as much as said, his officers knew their duty, and were not to be interfered with by parish constables, saying, Bow Street Office should not be made a cat's paw of. So Mr. Thomas, although he charged the officers with having assaulted him, got no redress; however, nothing daunted Mr. Thomas; and at last the officers were compelled to assist him in subduing the notorious nuisances so much complained of. There should be some regard paid to stature; when I was constable, we had a little man who really appeared ridiculous when on public duty with his truncheon; His Majesty's authority should always command respect from the public; no man under thirty years of age, or above fifty, should be engaged; and attention should ever be paid to the characters of persons selected to the office. I have known the keeper of a disorderly house, and a dealer in marine stores, accepted to serve; and it certainly is too much to expect a tradesman to be suddenly taken out of his business to serve this important, but very troublesome office, and perhaps having a family to support (it must be recollected nothing but personal attention is allowed, no servant or workman can act for him), and all to be performed for the peace of the realm, without any remuneration whatever: sup-

pose you have your head or a limb broken in an affray, who is to pay the doctor? If a soldier fights for his king and country only one year, and loses a limb, or be otherwise wounded severely, he receives a pension for life; how is a constable rewarded? Not a farthing is given, and the parish workhouse is his doom, should he be so far injured as not to be able to follow his trade or calling, and not have the means to support himself and family. The same is done for any notorious character who applies for relief; there should be rewards given for any meritorious performance; the fines paid by those who will not or cannot serve the office, should go to those who do serve it, and the names of the parishioners should be taken in rotation, commencing from the oldest inhabitant, down to those who have lived three years in the parish; this would be dealing with equity, and give satisfaction; and many respectable men would accept the office, who now refuse to act with substitutes, and without any hope of either reward or even thanks. There is another improvement I will suggest, which I am sure would be of credit to the service, in the management of the Watch Committees; they should be kept separate from any other duty, and the constables who have served in their own right one year, should be elected for the Watch Committee the following year, and so on, in succession; by this plan the Watch Committee men, from having had experience as constables, would know the character of the watchmen, how they had done their duty through the year, and observe in what order the watch-house had been kept, and the behaviour of the Watch-house keeper and the beades; and see to the useful state of fire ladders, the attendance of the turncock, and keep the fire engines in good repair*. I cannot leave this subject without

* While I was engaged writing this work, no less than twenty persons have been destroyed by fire; the following is copied from the Times, February 25.—“Yesterday morning a little before four o'clock, the inhabitants of Denmark Street, Soho, were thrown into the utmost alarm in consequence of a fire, which threatened the most dreadful effects, breaking

noticing the very laudable conduct of Mr. Fursman, the enterprising and persevering watch-house keeper of St. Giles's; his name has often appeared before the public highly to his credit, and he has received the commendation of the magistrates. I am sure the thanks of the public are due to him; he should be promoted to the police department (and be rewarded), as his discrimination and activity would be of more service to the public in such a department. With respect to the Watch Committees, as they are now managed, I do not think you would find one person in all the parishes in London elected, who had even served the office of constable; then how should they understand the management of such business? While I was constable, I do not remember ever having seen one of these gentlemen troubling himself about watch-house affairs; I have known them engaged in the snuggery (the Vestry) setting others to do the work, while they enjoy the loaves and fishes.

OF HUE AND CRY.

The Honourable Sir Thomas Smith, Knt. Doctor of both Laws, says, "By the Law of England, if any theft or robbery be done, if hee that is robbed, or he that seeth or perceiveth that anyman is robbed, do levie Hue and Cry, that is to say, doe cry and call for aid, and say that a theft or robbing is done contrary to the Princes peace and assurance, the Constable of the Villiage to whom hee doth come and so make that cry, ought to raise the Parish to aid him and seeke the thief; and if the thief bee not found in that Parish, to go to the next, and raise

out at the back part of the house of Mr. Frost, working jeweller, No. 21, in the above street; the whole of the lodgers, in nearly a state of nudity, were crying out for ladders, the flames were now making rapid progress; several ladders were procured from Saint Giles's Church Yard, where they are kept, and by which the whole of the inmates escaped, with the exception of one young man, a lodger, who jumped into the street, by which he broke his leg; this shews the importance of fire ladders.

that Constable, and so still by Constables and them of the Parish one after another, this Hue and Cry from Parish to Parish is carried till the thiefe or robber bee found ; that Parish that doth not his dutie, but lets by their negligence the thiefe to depart, doth not only pay a fine to the King, but must repay to the party robbed his dammages, so that every Englishman is a Sergeant to take the thiefe, and who sheweth himself negligent therein, doe not only incurre evill opinion therefore, but hardly shall escape punishment."

So much for the wisdom of our forefathers as printed in the year 1562. Some such legislative measure should be adopted in the year 1828, to compel the parish officers to do their duty towards their parishioners, and their king and country. The mysterious proceedings of the officers of a certain parish in the West, will most probably be soon brought to light, which will no doubt stagger the opinions of the most lenient of mankind respecting select vestries. Early in February, I went to Bow Street office to see the Police Gazette, or Hue and Cry; I was informed by the clerk, no person was allowed to see it without they named a case, as it was only intended for the use of the officers; I then went to Hatton Garden office, when I received the same refusal: but at Marlborough Street office, the Police Gazette was immediately handed to me, and I sat down and perused it over. Why should this paper, which contains an account of information laid, and robberies committed, not be made public, as formerly was the case with the Hue and Cry, instead of being placed in the clerk's desk, and to all appearance very seldom looked at by even the officers of the police establishments. Now if this paper were delivered every morning with the Morning Advertiser to every licensed victualler, I have no doubt the extensive publication thereby given to it would often lead to some clue to the apprehension of thieves and the recovery of property. The Hue and Cry I believe comes out on Tuesdays and Fridays after the property is lost, this is a flat contradiction to the advice of a police officer; if you employ

them, they will universally recommend you to immediately publish hand bills, and offer a reward; this is no doubt good advice; for the more quickly you follow the thief, the more likely you are to recover your property; but there are some conceited men among the officers, who will tell you to be quiet, and leave it to them, as they know almost every thief in London, and that they will catch the thieves with as much dexterity as the school boys are said to catch birds by putting salt on their tails. Do you think that when a man has been guilty of an infringement of the laws of his country, that he is not afraid of the punishment that awaits him; and the dexterous and ingenious manner in which many robberies are committed, shows they possess more cunning, skill, and contrivance in their plans, and in the execution of their depredations, than the police officers do in the performance of their duty to recover the stolen property, or take the thief; then look well after your property yourself; but, above all, place those guards and securities around it, which will prevent you from the loss, and save you the trouble and expense of seeking after your property when stolen. There are in London fifteen police offices, but these are not sufficient for the great increase of buildings, and of course population: there are but two police offices on the Surrey side of the river, Union Hall, and the Town Hall in the Borough; Southwark, Lambeth, Kennington, Brixton, Clapham, and Battersea, places so near the metropolis, and very thickly inhabited, have no other police office to apply to for assistance; the nearest on the Middlesex side is Queen Square, Westminster: the same with Pentonville, Battle Bridge, Islington, Hackney, and Bethnal Green; only two offices for this immense district, Worship Street, Shoreditch, and Hatton Garden, Holborn; this last police office, and Queen Square office, have only eight officers on each of the establishments, and they have been beat off several times, and barbarously used in attempting to quell fights and riots at assemblies in the fields, near Battle Bridge on Sundays, and on other

days; the same has happened also on Bethnal-Green. The number of police officers should be increased at all the offices, and new offices should be established as well as churches and chapels, to improve and correct the morals of the people. I would recommend an additional police office on a small scale, say four officers to each, to be established as near as convenient to the first turnpike gate out of London, on each of the main roads, and to be always open, night and day, to receive informations of robberies committed in the environs, to protect property at fires, and to keep up a constant communication with the horse and foot patrol; on the roads these intermediate officers would be of considerable service in keeping a look out on what may be passing on the roads by night (which should be the principal object of the police) as well as by day; and they would afford confidence and security to the new neighbourhoods surrounding the metropolis; and prevent those continual depredations which are now taking place in those quarters, many hundreds of which happen unknown to the established police officers, from the great distance and trouble now required to lay the information.

As hotels, inns, taverns, and public houses, are in a degree under the surveillance of the police, how very important and useful they would be to the public, and of great assistance to the police in the recovery of stolen property; and the means of apprehending the thieves, by giving such an extensive circulation to the Police Gazette, or Hue and Cry; and the vast improvement made in the expeditious mode of printing, which is stated as follows in the Times paper, February 21. "Being now enabled, by the erection of a newly invented printing machine, to throw off four thousand impressions every hour (for a more particular account of which, we refer to our paper of Thursday last) we do not entertain the least doubt that the Times will issue from the press at such an early hour every morning as to insure to its numerous readers an early delivery of the paper. We particularly call the attention of our readers, whether private

individuals, or keepers of taverns, who reside in the country, and who receive their papers by the morning coaches out of London to this notice."

Therefore, if the information of robberies, murders, horse-stealing, &c., were printed off every night, the Hue and Cry could be delivered with all the papers to taverns, public houses, pawnbrokers, horse dealers, and hung up in all the coach offices in London, and also be distributed by the mails to the post offices of the principal places in the country; the paper is not very large, and would be considerably reduced, if the above plan were pursued. It might contain the substance of all informations received in cases of felonies, and misdemeanors of an aggravated nature; and against receivers of stolen goods, reputed thieves, and offenders escaped from custody; with the time, the place, and every particular circumstance marking the offence; the name of person or persons charged, who are known, but not in custody; and of those who are not known, the appearance, dress, and every other mark of identity, that can be described; the names of accomplices and accessaries, with every other particular which may lead to their apprehension; the names of all persons brought before the magistrates charged with any of the offences mentioned, and whether committed for trial, re-examined, or how otherwise disposed of; also a description of property which may have been stolen, and particularly stolen horses, with as much particularity as can be given; with every circumstance that may be useful for the purpose of tracing and recovering it.

The hotels, inns, and taverns, in and about London, amount at least to three hundred and eighteen; and the public houses in and about the metropolis to three thousand five hundred and ninety-nine; now, if the Home Department made some arrangement with the Editors of Newspapers, the Police Gazette could be delivered with the papers, and the Hue and Cry hung up in the most public place of each hotel, tavern, coffee house, or public house, for the inspection of the public, and

afterwards kept on a file by the landlord of the house. This mode of publication would be attended with very little inconvenience and expense to the country, and be found an excellent check and preventative to murder and robberies of every description. There can be no doubt of the propriety of public houses shutting up or closing their doors at such seasonable hours as may be deemed proper for so large a trading place as London; but the hour should be twelve, instead of half past eleven, as many of the most respectable tradesmen in London cannot leave business before ten, then they have to examine accounts, make arrangements for the next day's business, and take supper, before they can have an opportunity of enjoying one hour's relaxation, or time to read a newspaper. The constables of parishes, whose duty it is, would look into these affairs if they were all serving in their own right; then no palm oil or hush money would be circulating in this matter, and no need of those despicable characters, informers, who disgrace the name of Englishmen, and spread perjury and oppression wherever they interfere with the peaceable enjoyments of the people; if the time were made twelve all over London, and if any infringement was made in the time, then the matter to be left to the discrimination of a magistrate, as to levying any fine, deciding according to equity, and circumstances that may appear in evidence, on the examination of each complaint made. No information should be received from any informer who expects to be paid for his trouble; in that character, his evidence must be always looked upon with suspicion; the above arrangement would give satisfaction to all parties, and give a sufficient check to, and answer all the purposes necessary for, the good order of public houses. The nobility are perhaps not aware of the many charitable societies held at public houses, such as the Philanthropic lodges, and many others, which meet for the purpose of harmony, and subscribe a small sum each for the relief of the distressed, who apply by petition, stating their distressed condition, who are regularly visited by two members,

and when if all is found correct as described in the petition, a sum of two or three pounds is immediately paid to the poor applicant, without any inquiry as to what country they belong to, or what religious opinions they profess; thousands continue to be relieved by these laudable societies; and no swearing, or indecent songs or language, are allowed. It is a pity to cramp the hand of charity and rational amusement. Many publicans having been robbed while they have been employed in the bar, they should have a patent lock, and I recommend a bell to ring from the inside their bed-room doors into the bar, or a night bolt, which would give notice or prevent any person entering their private room, and thereby prevent many robberies.

HOUSEBREAKING.

A housebreaker, or (as the flash word goes) *Cracksman*, is considered among thieves a master workman, and very rarely are young thieves found engaged in this master piece of roguery. This dreadful crime has increased to an alarming degree, it is not confined to retail plunder, but property has lately been carried off wholesale, in some instances scarcely leaving a vestige behind. Witness the robbery of Messrs. Grimaldi and Johnson, the chronometer and watch makers, No. 431, Strand. Every man possessing property must feel considerable alarm while such extensive robberies are committed; and the Government, by means of the public press, is properly called on to devise some effectual method to put a stop to such disgraceful and demoniacal proceedings, as I have observed before, under the article the Nightly Watch. A nightly police, sufficiently numerous, consisting of effective and well paid officers of acknowledged integrity, and the police offices always open to receive informations, is the only plan to be depended on to prevent the repetition of the evil; and it must be made permanent to do any real good to the public, as after a little repose we generally find it, like the plagues of Egypt,

bursting forth with more extensive destruction and with increased atrocity; and new schemes are continually devised by the thieves to baffle the skill and vigilance of the police. I will give one case of a masterpiece of burglary, which will suffice I think to show (I am sorry to say) the ability, ingenuity, and determination, of what a so called master cracksman can perform in the dead of night, and all the family at home. It will, no doubt, appear almost impossible, but I will vouch for the fact, as well as for every other statement I have made in this publication. The butler who lived in the family at the time, is still living, and I have no doubt Mr. Townshend has not forgotten the robbery, it was about the year 1802.—The late Rt. Hon. Lord Ellenborough's house, No. 39, Bloomsbury Square, was broken into; the thieves got over a wall near fifteen feet high, situated at the back of his Lordship's house in Vernon Place; no lamplighter's ladder could be high enough (by the by, no such ladders should be left in the streets, as they are often used by thieves for scaling walls, they should, when not used, be left at the watch-house), they must therefore have procured a ladder for the purpose; they got over an area ten feet wide to his Lordships' dressing-room window, forced up the sash, fastening it, and forced off a fold of the shutters, having two locking bars across, and unlocked the bars.—I must here observe, that there was no bell, otherwise the ringing of the bell all the time they were working would most assuredly have alarmed the butler, who slept in the pantry underneath the dressing room. They packed up his Lordship's linen, and forced open a small door leading to the passage, adjoining the best staircase. The thieves took away a considerable quantity of plate, which was left in the dining room, there having been the same evening a large party to dinner, who remained to a late hour. The thieves were alarmed by going into a small room under the best staircase where the under butler slept. The footman sprang out of bed and rang the alarm bell, when the thieves made off by the hall door in Bloomsbury Square,

(like good generals, they were prepared to make their retreat) they, however, left his Lordship's linen behind. His Lordship sent for Mr. Townshend. I understood him he had no doubt of finding the master man who had planned, and with others had committed the robbery, saying, he was the cleverest fellow in London, by what he had seen of his work; the property he gave no hopes of recovering; I believe Mr. Townshend's words were true enough—it was for ever lost to his Lordship. This is a pretty good specimen of what can be effected by these clever fellows; and nothing short of a most powerful night police of rapid and extensive communication, can check it, and protect private property. After the above robbery was committed his Lordship employed my father to fix alarm bells; such is the general case (when the steed is stolen, we lock the stable door); my plan is to prevent robbery, by securing property, I will now take for example any house in Grosvenor Square, which will also answer for any house of smaller dimensions, and explain, in the plainest manner I can, the best, simplest, and most secure methods of securing a private dwelling house against the attacks of burglars, having had as much experience in hanging alarm bells as any man in the kingdom. The high patronage I have had bestowed on me, will, I trust, protect me from any inference that I publish this work for gain, as I give up my experience in securing dwellings for the benefit of the Public; and any lady or gentleman may employ their own tradesmen to follow my plans, should they feel satisfied that I have given them a true, explicit, and unreserved statement. I shall begin with the basement story; the area gate should be locked at dusk, and not opened again until the tradesmen commence their calls in the morning, which should be announced by ringing a bell at the gate; the windows which open into the area, should have iron bars (I do not approve of an iron grating to cover the whole area, unless there is a gate made to lift upwards, so that in case of fire, the inmates can make their escape). The area door should have

strong bolts top and bottom; if double doors, the one that opens should have a strut of iron, which is the most powerful defence that can be fixed to any door, and very simple in construction; the doors should be plated with sheet iron full a sixteenth of an inch thick, and screwed on the door, not nailed; if a fan-light be over the area door, bars should be fixed across, and the space between which should not be wide enough to admit a boy to pass between them. You must observe that a thief is like a fox, if he can find an opening not secured, he will be sure to make use of it, and when once he makes an entrance, he can undo the fastenings inside, as well as yourself. The area door or window when directly under the stone of the hall door steps is oftener attempted to be broken open than any other place; the stone covers the thieves from observation, should the watchman or any passenger pass by. Leaving the key in a lock is not so secure as people imagine, as, with a small pair of pliers a thief will turn the key from the outside level with the key-hole, and push it out of the lock, and introduce skeleton keys or their picklocks. Bolts are not only the most simple to remove inside, but the most difficult to remove outside, and not so likely to be neglected to be used, as they cannot be lost, as is often the case with keys. Iron plating doors is an excellent security. The wood is easily cut through with a centre bit, the same sort of tool as is used by carpenters, which makes little noise, but when the tool comes in contact with the iron plating, it makes a grating noise, and takes off the edge of the tool; if the iron plate is slightly nailed, it may be pushed from the door, nails and all; but if screwed, as I have recommended, it cannot. Bolts should pass an inch and a quarter into the wood. These observations will answer for every purpose wherein bolts, locks, and iron plates are used for the above preventative. The leaving keys in the inside entrance doors from the street is very dangerous, as thieves make pretended inquiries, and take the key from the lock, which gives them the means of entrance when any opportunity offers. All outside

door keys should be chained to the locks, which would make them at once a fixture, and prevent the key being lost, likewise a chain across the door should be used at dusk in the evening. A bell should be hung from the servants sleeping room on the basement, who might ring the call bell to the attic, to answer as an alarm bell; and a bell should be hung from the porter's hall, or inside the entrance door, to ring below stairs, to prevent a servant leaving the hall while a stranger is present. These precautions would prevent many portable articles being stolen, as thieves make inquiries to induce servants to leave the hall, while they rob with impunity. The windows and doors at the back of the basement story should be secured in the same manner as the front basement doors and windows. We now proceed to the parlour or ground story: a spring shutter bar is best for the front or back windows, as it requires both hands to unfasten it; and a bell should be attached to each window shutter, not put over the bars:—I have a drop brass plate, which if the shutters are attempted to be forced, falls, and gives the bell great force in ringing, and still retains the bell on the shutter. A bell is heard a considerable distance in the night, and it is too dangerous a telltale for thieves, to allow them to continue their depredations, as all the while they work the bell will be ringing. If a door should open into the back garden or yard, it should be secured as recommended before; if there should be a fan-light, the same. We now ascend to the drawing room floor; but first, if the staircase window looks over a lead flat or any out building, it will require particular attention, and should be secured with two spring bars and a bell, or, perhaps, if a corner house, it would be more safe to have bars (I must observe here, all corner houses are the most exposed, as the back premises generally open to the street). If the drawing room windows have balconies, they should be secured in the same manner as the dining room windows; except with this additional caution, when the shutters are divided across, which is the case in lofty rooms, the shutters

should have brass plates or thumb screws, to make the whole shutter act upon the bell, which is very easily done. If a brass covered plate bolt was fixed in the middle of the outside of the drawing room doors, it would be a good security, although I do not think it absolutely necessary when there are proper bells to the shutters. The bed rooms will only require a strong bolt under the lock, and the key to be taken out of the lock; in case of fire and confusion, if the key be turned the wrong way, the lock bolt may be over locked; in that case it would be impossible for persons to get out, or any person to relieve them, except by bursting the door open. Night bolts that open from the bed side are very convenient; but those made at Birmingham are little to be depended on for security, they are generally made too slight.

We will now finish with the attics; if the windows are parallel with the parapet, no fastenings will be required; but if any window opens on the roof, iron bars should be fixed, or, as an escape from fire, an iron gate, not fastened with a padlock, as the key may be lost when wanted; and if left in the lock it may be so rusted in as not to act; but an iron chain should be fixed to the gate, and conveyed out of the reach of a thief and fastened over an iron staple, with an iron potter to pass through, which is as easily removed as a common bolt. The gate of course will open inside the window.—The trap door is a dangerous place, as thieves will take the opportunity when a house is rebuilding or repairing, perhaps some distance off the house they intend to attack, to pass over many houses, and make their way through the trap door or window leading to the roof; and, as many are not aware of this scheme, they often succeed to pass that way through the house, and let in their accomplices at the street door; and they have been known to make use of this entry in the day time disguised as bricklayers, and if surprised, say they have mistaken the house where they were at work, or some other excuses; therefore particular attention must be paid to trap doors, both those out-

side the roof, and those generally made in the ceiling; and any skylight is equally dangerous, as they will let themselves down with a rope; and many considerable robberies have been committed in this way, when all other precautions have been attended to, but the skylight has been overlooked. Trap doors should be secured in the same manner as area doors, with a bell attached. The inside door in the ceiling should be secured with iron bolts and a bell; the door plated with iron as before recommended for the doors on the basement story; if any skylight, bars should be placed inside.

The trap door is of excellent use in escaping from fire as being so contiguous to the bed rooms, and a step ladder should always be fixed ready; if portable, it will be used for other purposes, and when wanted, perhaps not to be found. Country houses not adjoining other buildings, will not require the upper stories to be secured in the above manner; but the ground floor apartments and drawing room floor it will be necessary to secure in the same way, with the exception that, if there is any wing to the building, a wire and cranks will be necessary to convey the bell to any situation where it may be heard; an alarm bell outside the building sufficiently large to be heard at some distance, has protected many buildings from robbery in the country, and should ring from the passage leading to the bedchambers. High walls near a building should have chevaux-de-frise, or tenter spike, or hooks, otherwise they will not be sufficient protection from housebreaking.

WAREHOUSES.

The same plans must be observed as respects the securing of property in dwelling houses, but as servants seldom sleep in warehouses, the struts, bars, bolts, iron plating, &c. should be made stronger, and iron bars to windows and skylights should be not only stronger but placed nearer together; and in some cases strong iron wire-work will be necessary, to prevent valuable

property, which may be packed in a small compass, from being fished out between the bars, or going that way in the day-time. I saw a silk mercer and woollen draper nearly ruined by his property being extracted in that way between the bars, as they were left too wide apart. If the bars are a great length they will spring considerably, and of course the space between the bars be opened wider. The best plan, in my opinion, is to have a confidential clerk sleep as near the premises as possible, with an alarm bell in his room connected with wires and cranks to communicate with the doors of any exposed place. I have carried a communication from three to four hundred feet in wine cellars, and at Messrs. Rundle and Bridge's manufactory, &c.; the cranks should be mounted to work on copper centres to prevent the rust fixing the motion of the work. This plan has succeeded; when a robbery has been attempted, the alarm has sent the thieves scampering away. The attachments may be made in a variety of ways, but I do not think it prudent to publish particulars: any ingenious mechanic can furnish them if required. As many warehouses are left upon the lock only, Chubb's Patent detection lock is perhaps the best. The House of Correction, Cold Bath Fields, has one on the outside gate. Many contrivances may be made to punish a thief in breaking into a warehouse, but they are also attended with danger to the partners or warehousemen. If, besides such a lock as I have mentioned, an alarm bell were hung in any part of the premises, where the watchmen or any passenger or neighbour could hear it, and were made to set itself when the warehouseman locks the door the last thing at night (when he enters in the morning, at its going off, he has a private method of stopping the ringing of the bell after he enters), it will be found as good a plan as any, and no danger ensue. The late Mr. Rundle was very particular with his clerks; if he heard they were sporting about, and living extravagantly, they were sure to be reprimanded; and if he found a repetition, discharged. Attention should be paid to

the condition of porters and warehousemen; sometimes they have large families to support, and very valuable property entrusted to their care, which exposes them to temptation; therefore a few additional shillings per week cannot be an object to their employers, and may prevent even the thought of doing wrong, and promote a closer union of interests between masters and servants. In cottages, a watchman's rattle should be kept in the bed chamber, and the door well secured inside; a small cur dog would be of service, loose in the hall or passage at night; dogs are not of much service outside of a building, if the thieves can get at them to give them poisonous drugs, but if convenient to keep inside of a warehouse, stable, out buildings, &c., they are faithful guardians. As the thieves love darkness rather than light, I recommend a night light, or a neat lanthorn is much the best, which is always ready on the instant to carry about the house in the event of an attack; and in case of fire is equally useful, in enabling you to dress, or secure your cash box, or deeds. For the protection of country seats from robbery, fire arms are absolutely necessary; but London servants should have near their bed sides, a stout oak stick with a dirk inside, which answers either to knock down with or to make a thrust; and it should be remembered that, "thrice is he armed that has his quarrel just." For the out buildings of cottages, stabling, and other buildings adjoining, Mr. Salmon's detonating alarms will be found useful, but it will be dangerous to apply them where gas, gunpowder, or any very light material is present; as the flash of fire, arising from an explosion, would communicate: when they are to be fixed, which is easily done with two brass hooks, one on the door and one on the architrave, they should be placed in a slanting direction, and as far above your head as you can reach conveniently, or near the bottom of the door; otherwise, should you forget to remove the alarm in the morning before you open the door, the explosion would take place, and perhaps occasion some slight injury if placed level with your head; if placed outside the building,

a small ledge will be necessary to screen it from rain. The damp only will not injure the quality of the powder. I consider them very good substitutes for the spring gun. And as the use of that destructive instrument, which has destroyed so many innocent persons, and punished so few of the guilty, is now forbid, I recommend these alarms, observing the caution above stated, and to keep them separate, for should you have a dozen of them together, and one of them go off by any accident (such has pulling out the rings at both ends), or any communication of fire, in that case the whole of them present would explode. They may be applied with effect for the protection of conservatories, pineries, melon grounds, orchards, stabling, and for the protection of game, poultry, &c.; the expense is very trifling, and they possess the advantage of exploding on the approach of fire.

I have given you the best and only means individuals have in their power, of securing their dwellings, and certainly every Christian should do all in his power to prevent crime, by removing valuable articles which lead to temptation, to a place of safety; and placing those obstacles and guards in the way, that mercy and prudence direct, to prevent robberies. Here I must observe how very imprudent it is to have plate cleaned, and oftentimes laid out, at an area window to the view of every passenger. Lady Coleraine, in Regent's Park, lost very lately a quantity of silver spoons, forks, &c., by this neglect: her Ladyship was indisposed, and while the servant went up stairs with the breakfast, a thief went down the area steps, and carried off the plate. Her Ladyship sent for me; I advised to send for an officer, which was done; the officer recommended hand bills, describing the crest, to be circulated, offering a reward, but gave little hopes of recovering any part of the property, which no doubt had been melted even before the hand bills were printed.

I will now make a few remarks of what may be done by the police, to prevent the conveyance away of plunder in the night.

time. When the examination took place by Mr Townshend, respecting the robbery of Lord Ellenborough's house, the servant that alarmed the thieves said, he had heard the rattling of a hackney coach passing frequently before the door. Mr. Townshend stated that a hackney coach, with a false plate or number, was usually employed to go round a certain district, and that the thieves availed themselves of the noise made by the coach in passing by the house to force open a door; the rattling of the coach over the stones serving to lull any suspicions in the mind of inmates who might be awake, and who might suppose that they heard thieves breaking into the house; it likewise served them for a vehicle to remove the plunder, and a screen for themselves, as well as the means of escape. Would it not be well for Government to look into this affair, and oblige every Hackney Coachman, if hired for a job over night, between the hours of one and six o'clock in winter, to inform the nearest police office of the particulars, which information would give the police office an opportunity of despatching an officer to the spot to see if all was right; and he should likewise be compelled to give information in the morning, before he went home, to the nearest police office, of the jobs he had been hired to do during the night; this would often facilitate the tracing of property, and be of no inconvenience to passengers, or any infringement of the liberty of the subject, and it does not interfere with hours of business. The same should be done with spring caravans and carts, and penalties or imprisonment imposed upon the proprietor in default thereof. This regulation would no doubt be a great check and preventive to the carrying off plunder, as it must be admitted some vehicle must be used. Many cases have occurred, where turnpike men have given information of suspected characters and vehicles conveying property in the night, which has led to a detection. There should be a law made to compel them to take the name and address of every cart, caravan, &c. before they open the gate, passing between the

hours of one and six o'clock in the morning, and to enter it in a book; and upon observing any suspicious circumstance or character passing on the road, they should communicate the same to the horse patrol, and the gate should be kept locked from one o'clock to six in the morning in winter. In case of non-performance of the above duty, fine and imprisonment to be imposed. This duty should be superintended by the horse patrol on the station, for the information of the principal office, Bow Street; thus uniting every means of quick information, and consolidating the police system in all its branches, acting in concord for the benefit of the Public. In the case of Mr. Thomas, the constable, Sir Richard Birnie appears to me to be rather too delicate of the liberty of the subject, as regards suspicious characters, or those known to the police, who cannot give a good account of themselves, or by what means they are supported. His delicacy should rather be applied to the unfortunate who have been robbed of their property, and are thus rendered unable to pay their debts, and thereby suffer the loss of liberty by imprisonment in a debtors gaol. Perhaps the wisest thing which Government could do, would be to order the Magistrates and Police Officers to subscribe the amount of the property lost by individuals; if this were done, they would look out a little sharper after the thieves and the stolen property. It is said in history, that our good King Alfred formed such a rigid police, that golden chains were hung up on the highways, daring the most ingenious and determined thieves to take them away. The King's jewels are safe enough in the Tower; the Bank of England and the Treasury are well guarded with soldiers; the various banking houses are strongly protected, besides having a watchman all night inside the house; and it behoves every person having property to take care of it, and I may say assist the Government, by placing those difficulties and barriers in the way, as preventives against the loss of property, and commission of crime.

FENCES.

A flash word, meaning receivers of stolen goods, or men whom thieves safely repose confidence in not to betray them to the police (here is the boasted honour among thieves), furnishing cash to the thieves in return for the plunder they bring. I am doubtful the enormous profits the receivers gain by the booty will ever unite them in interest, and render them consequently impenetrable to discovery. Some years ago, a man called *Slender Billy*, of Westminster notoriety, was executed at the Old Bailey, I believe, for passing forged notes knowing them to be forged. Prior to his execution, His Majesty's Minister for the Home Department, visited him in Newgate, offering him His Majesty's pardon, if he would communicate all he knew of the gangs of thieves, and the various fences, about London. The answer given by this hardy fence was, that if he did communicate all he knew, some hundreds of families would be ruined, and as the Government could only take his life, it was better for one to suffer than so many. I need not add, that such resolution would have done a man honour in a better cause. I visited his establishment about fifteen years ago, to obtain information, when I first thought of publishing my researches and observations on the police system. His parlour had the appearance of an armory, with a blunderbuss and pistols loaded, and a sword hung over the chimney piece. He was a knacker, and had an infirmary for dogs; he had a theatre for dog fighting and badger baiting. The admittance to the theatre was a shilling, and on the days of performance, many dashing equipages of the first fashion did honour to this receptacle of filth and plunder. I was informed this man had daughters, to whom he left some thousands of pounds; and it was said that, although a bad man in other respects, he was kind to them, and careful of their morals. One of his daughters, I am informed, married a police officer; the other, it is said, married a respectable tradesman. There is no rule without an excep-

tion. Any man of the world must have observed this fatality once in his life :—a bad father may have a good child, in spite of bad example; and a good father may have a bad child, in spite of the best precepts. I have often wondered such scenes should be allowed in Westminster, when it must have been well known to the police : some Jews have lately carried on this traffic to an unprecedented extent ; their frequent communications with the Continent offer great facilities and temptations to the removal of dangerous and valuable property out of the reach and possibility of recovery. But I do not think it is confined to the East, or the purlieus of London, but extends North, South and West ; and I am sorry to say, there have been tradesmen to all appearances respectable, who, for the sordid lucre of gain and avariciousness, have sacrificed their integrity and credit, by engaging in this shameful traffic ; while at the same time they have been doing well in an honourable way of business. Not many years ago a person of the above description was convicted, and is now suffering transportation—he lived in St. James's parish. A man also of independent property not far from Oxford Street suffered imprisonment for the same offence ; he was, however, obliged to quit business. Likewise a man in the neighbourhood of Soho, had a narrow chance from being transported ; the Judge on the trial told him, he fully deserved it as well as the thief. There are many tradesmen of respectability, who purchase goods not exactly in their business, in a loose manner, perhaps without reflecting at the moment the danger to which they are subjecting themselves, should the parties not have come honestly by them ; for my part, I have often had offers of the above description made to me, of considerable value, and great advantage, but I always required a reference to some respectable person, and the address of the parties before I would have any thing to do with them. The same caution should be observed by persons purchasing goods over the counter ; although they may give a fair price it would be much

to their credit to make inquiry and gain some knowledge of the connexions of the venders, or a reference to any friends they may have; if this precaution were strictly enforced, many robberies would not only be prevented, but it would lead often to a discovery of the right owners. The Marquess of Lansdown has ordered a strict inquiry into the late negociations said to have been carried on respecting stolen property. Government will no doubt do all they can to trace this abominable traffic; I hope they may succeed, but I am doubtful of it, for the reasons which I have before mentioned. This affair, or any future negociation which may occur, will ever be impenetrable to the world; therefore the axe must go to the root to do any good to the public, and that can only be done by a powerful preventive Night Police, with the offices always open; as it must be remembered that the great evil takes place in the night, therefore the main remedy should be applied in that season. Government cannot make men honest, but they may place stumbling blocks and every hindrance in the way of robbery; and the public should go hand in hand with the Government, by not leading people into temptation, by carelessly exposing their property, or being neglectful in placing those barriers for its safety which christianity and prudence directs. The common phrase, "if there were no receivers there would be no thieves," in my opinion should be quite reversed, if there were no thieves there would be no receivers. I am for *preventing*, which is much better than to *cure*. Supposing there were no receivers to melt the plate, take watches or jewelery to pieces, &c., do you think the thieves have not ingenuity enough to put a common crucible on the fire, cut the gold or silver plate to pieces, and melt it, and pour it out into an ingot? where is there a refiner in London who would not buy it in that state, and how is the identity to be proved? What skill does it require to take a watch out of a case, take it to pieces, file out the name on the plate, have it regilt, and the cases melted? The receiver is no doubt as bad as the thief; but the one risks his life in obtaining

the property, and afterwards death awaits him; the other obtains perhaps a fortune in one day, and the utmost risk he runs is that of transportation for life, leaving the plunder behind him for the use of his family and friends. You see, between the two, what chance the owner ever has of recovering his losses. We have a precedent of what I have advanced in the late cases of pewter-pot stealing; they are more cunning now, for instead of taking out the initials, they put the pot into a frying pan, and, when melted, who can identify it? Thus justice is put at naught. Therefore you see the necessity of taking care of "your jewels, cash, and plate;" for if once lost, how difficult it is to recover any part of it again, even if the thief and receiver should be taken and prosecuted. Government cannot be expected to place a police officer at every man's door, but if the preventive system be adopted, I have no doubt the public will be benefited very materially by the plan. The immense increase of British commerce, although it constitutes one of the greatest blessings eventually to a manufacturing and free people, yet it is not all happiness;—whenever disastrous affairs affect our trade in foreign parts, disastrous effects take place at home, as soon as the news arrive; hence trade is continually fluctuating, and many ups and downs continually take place in the circumstances of tradesmen, more particularly of those in London; and one of the great bolsters to men so situated are the pawnbrokers shops, amounting, I believe, in London, to about three hundred; and I am certain many a respectable tradesman has preserved his credit, by a temporary application to these money-lenders, when the pockets of his former friends have been buttoned up; and many a poor mechanic has supplied bread for his family when he has been out of employ: but, nevertheless, they have their evils in a great metropolis like London, and great evils indeed they are to the morals of the lower classes of society, when used for improper purposes. It is notorious, that stolen property is often deposited in these magazines, or marts, and money lending offices, to a very

great extent. They receive twenty per cent. interest on good security, not lending more than a fifth on the average of the value of the property they receive, and it may be supposed to be five to one if they do not gain the principal into the bargain; but, however this may be, they have great privileges and great profits; and when we consider how they flourish in the worst of times, they should be called upon to render their services, which would no doubt be very important to the public, and an auxiliary to the police; they should keep a register of all articles of plate, jewels, watches, and other valuable property pledged, and arranged under the various denominations, so that the police should, on information or well grounded suspicion, have access to this register at all reasonable hours, without a search warrant, which would enable an officer to trace property without loss of time. All dealers in marine stores, dealers in second hand wardrobes, &c., should be arranged under a similar plan, accessible to the police at all times, on well grounded suspicion, or otherwise, without a search warrant: this should generally apply to dealers in second hand goods of every description.

What a woful neglect there appears in London, in not having the pawnbrokers' shops built fire proof, when we consider the immense property placed in these pandorian magazines as places of security. No doubt the pawnbrokers are deeply insured themselves from loss by fire; but what security have the poor of the metropolis against the destruction of their property deposited in these places? In case of fire, when it has happened, I have witnessed the utmost consternation and distress in the neighbourhood: the pawnbrokers are in duty bound to preserve the goods and property placed in their hands free from any damage, or risk of any kind whatsoever; and the only way to do so is having their warehouses fire proof and secure from burglary.

ADVICE TO SERVANTS.

Good, honest, and faithful servants, will ever feel it their duty to watch their master and mistress's property, both by night as well as by day; they should never forget what a good master and mistress provides for them—a good table, respectable clothing, and comfortable lodging. In sickness they are not deserted, but are provided with the best medical advice, and generally the kindest attention is paid to their health and comforts. When worn out in their kind master and mistress's services, they often have a provision made for them in their old age. How cruel and ungrateful then indeed must those servants be, who can betray the property of such masters and mistresses, or neglect to do all in their power to secure the happy dwelling which gives them shelter. Servants are as much interested as their master is in taking care that the guards to his property are always used, when closing the house at night; such as bolts to doors, bars to shutters, bells, and any contrivance that may be adopted to secure their master or mistress's property; and too much caution cannot be used in admitting itinerant dealers, hawkers, pedlars, and beggars; if admitted, none should be allowed to go beyond the servant's hall, and they should never be left to themselves, but always followed out to the gate. I trust I am the last man that would wish to prevent the crumbs which fall from the rich man's table from being charitably disposed of; no article whatever of food should be wasted or thrown away; yet it is necessary to be constantly on your guard, for many wicked wretches assume the garb of poverty and distress, for the express purpose of committing murder and robbery. For should any property be stolen from the house, how many unpleasant suspicions, reports, and insinuations, are immediately circulated, which frequently operate to the prejudice of servants. Although they may not have the most distant knowledge or acquaintance with the robbers, servants cannot be too cautious of the characters and connexions

of persons whom they associate with, or make their companions; they should ever remember that their very existence depends upon character; and that they cannot be too scrupulous of the character of those whom they make their confidants. Many houses have been robbed, and even the murder committed of both masters and servants, besides the horrid crime of arson, by means of the thieves insinuating themselves among the servants, for the express purpose of ascertaining the habits of the family, the ways of the house, the extent of property, and where deposited; then waiting a convenient opportunity, they break into the house, and carry away the plunder they have been waiting for, as but few burglaries are committed without the thieves gaining, in some way or other, the above information. As the dreadful consequences of fire are in many respects similar to that of robbery in the night, both as respects the preservation of life, and of property; I have arranged my observation on the preventives and cautions to be used by masters and servants, under the head Fire; which subject equally demands the duty and attention of servants: but as I have endeavoured to point out the duty which servants owe to their masters, in respect to having the safe custody of their master and mistress's property, I think it but right to offer my advice in behalf of servants, which I hope will be of considerable service to them, in taking care of their own property; having, for five and twenty years past, frequented the society of the upper servants, in the steward's rooms, of the first families in the kingdom, both in town and country, where I have been employed. I can speak with confidence and admiration of the good order, manners, language, and general conduct of superior servants; in fact, they are an ornament to the situations which they fill, and a credit to their country; and many, to my knowledge, of our most honourable and wealthy citizens may have good reasons to boast of having selected an honest, industrious, and economical servant as a partner for life. Liberty, the main spring of an Englishman's heart, manifests itself in the

anxious desire to be made free and independent. Servants, from long servitude of liberal masters and mistresses, and by economy, are sometimes enabled to save a small capital, which often induces them to change their situations and commence business. How many are, for want of a sufficient knowledge of the world and its specious appearances, dreadfully deceived; and in a few years the little capital, so dearly earned, is drifted like chaff before the wind. Servants should take counsel of respectable, experienced tradesmen of good repute, and long established in business; they will inform them what is best to do, and often, by looking well before they leap, they will preserve a good situation in preference to embarking on the wide ocean of uncertainty. For be assured there are bad characters always on the look out for young beginners in trade, and scheming every manœuvre to get hold of either your goods or money. Deal only with substantial known houses in trade, and never buy of strangers, nor give orders to any that call on you for that purpose; if you do, you run a great chance of being deceived with bad articles you cannot sell, or otherwise cheated in a thousand ways; and as you have been accustomed to see and speak to persons well dressed, you must remember there are many wolves in sheep's clothing, and you must not judge a man by his clothes. I know you cannot from habit, be otherwise than polite and obliging; remain so when in business; at the same time, swindlers and sharpers disguise themselves in the habiliments of ladies and gentlemen, and imitate their manners so nearly, that you are sure to be deceived more or less; therefore do not part with your goods, until you make satisfactory inquiry in the neighbourhood where they reside, and take the goods home yourself, or go with your shopman, otherwise some knave will wait on the road, and by some pretext get your goods into his possession, which will make you fret, but that is of no use when your goods are gone. A trick was played lately on an acquaintance of mine, Mr. Mc Callen, a man of the world:—A ladylike woman produced a

check for thirty pounds, as her grocer had not change sufficient; the Man of the World stepped out to the grocer, and inquired if all was right; the grocer said, "The lady deals with me, and I should cash the check if I had the money in the house;" so saying, my acquaintance gave the money, but on presenting the check at the banker's, the notice given was, that the name on the note was unknown to them; therefore the money was lost in a few minutes*. There is another warning I will give you, not to overstock your shop with goods—money is the desideratum of business; and when some tradesmen find out, or guess at the amount of, your little capital, they will force their goods upon you, saying, you can pay for them when it suits you; I must tell you many a young couple have been ruined by this disgraceful practice; for you must remember, when the goods are once on your premises, you are liable for the payment; and some excuse will be made by the tradesman for calling on you so soon, or your acceptance will be required to pay in one, two, three, or more months, which you must be

* Another trick of rather a novel description was played off on a particular friend of mine, Mr. Cood (a perfect model of what every John Bull ought to be, as to character and disposition); my friend not only enjoys his beef, but loves his mutton, and being an excellent caterer, he had selected a fine leg of wether mutton for dinner, and ordered the butcher to send it home. The good housewife receives the present and prepares for cooking it, when, lo and behold! a butcher boy suddenly rings the bell in great haste, says his master is in a passion, and his fellow servant will lose his place if the leg of mutton is not immediately returned, having been sent in a mistake, and a lady, a particular customer, waiting for it; to prevent the boy losing his place, the too confiding housewife gives up the mutton, and finds, when too late, she has been cheated out of it. The husband returns with a salad to relish his mutton, but, alas! the mutton is gone; and, on inquiry at the butcher's, finds no less than six joints had been extracted in the above way from his customers!—Therefore, as a general recommendation, I would advise you to ever bear in mind the old proverb, "possession is nine points of the law;" and never give up either your cash, goods, or chattels, or any thing you may possess, without satisfactory reasons and substantial proofs.

prepared for with cash, or perhaps you go to prison, and your hopes of success are at an end, and your shop shut up; or, if the parties are bankrupts it will be equally as bad. The only way for you to check this trick is to have an undertaking in writing, stating in what time you are expected to pay for what goods you intend to order, and be careful to go on slowly and surely. - Always keep a reserve of money in case the business should not answer your expectations, and you will have another chance of trying something else. If you wish to be a licenced victualler, employ the most respectable broker you can find, and take the advice of a respectable publican of experience before you commence; for it is a very awkward business to have to retrace your steps. As I profess myself to be a tradesman of some experience, and I assure you I have paid dearly for it, I am pretty well acquainted with the various grades of society, and know that trade not only has been, but is now, in a very deranged state, and not what it was twenty years ago; although I know it has been the common phrase used in the best of times for John Bull to complain, yet it is now the fact, and I will endeavour to point out the reasons why it is so:—Is it for want of money? I should say, no; but money has been jostled into few hands, and there it remains, waiting some fresh impulse to awaken the capitalists, those golden giants of insatiable thirst, who drink up all the streams of commerce, without having either feelings or remorse for those they destroy. Twenty years ago, if a citizen could make his ten thousand pounds he felt satisfied, and retired from business, giving a chance to his children or relatives, and himself living to see them prosper by his occasional assistance and advice; but as the times go now, a man who wishes to be talked of after his death, must leave behind him at least fifty thousand pounds; to do which, he must draw his purse-strings tight, shut up the bowels of compassion, and live like an alien in the bosom of his country. This unbounded avariciousness has brought on the country a grinding system, which is working in all the minor

branches of trade, and spreading desolation and misery all over the land; hence arises excessive competition, which ruins many tradesmen. The want of confidence has ruined credit; and the want of the circulation of money in the legitimate sources of trade is driving thousands of respectable families either to a gaol, or to seek their last asylum, the parish. No doubt joint stock companies and associations are of great use to the public, to carry into effect national works, such as canals, water works, bridges, &c.; but when capital is collected together for the purpose of *washing linen*, taking the humble crust out of the poor widow's mouth, and distressing the fatherless children, or interfering in any manner with retail business, they become not only contemptible, but oppressive to the country; so it is with the Bazaars, those new fangled establishments, dragged from the Eastern parts of the world to gull John Bull. The first, I remember, was said to have been established for charitable purposes, and it was painted along a beam "Instituted for unfortunate Tradesmen, to recommence business with a small capital;" but the painter's brush soon took away all the charity that belonged to the concern. I am informed the receipts of one only, amount to, on the average, forty pounds per day. I will ask of what use they are to the public, and what necessity is there in London for such immense stall shops? Are there not tradesmen's shops enough to supply the demands of the public? Many hundred tradesmen have suffered severely by their trade being taken away; and I know a very respectable tradesman with a large family reduced to poverty, through the influence of these Turkish ideas, only fitting a Mahometan country. If our ladies of fashion would consider for a moment the treatment the ladies receive, and how they are esteemed in Turkey, they would banish the thought of patronizing any establishment which bore the name of tyranny and slavery; for in these marvellous times we know not how soon one of these scheming capitalists may bring over a Turkish Harem, to grace and adorn the shop stalls. Let the nobility and gentry

give their support to the honest and industrious tradesman, which will enable him to pay his rent and taxes, and support his family with credit, and they will have the satisfaction of knowing that they are doing good to the public, and receive the most grateful thanks for their favours so properly and justly bestowed. Whatever brings distress upon a country must necessarily more or less demoralize the people; and many a man who has lived respectably and of good report, on the first shock of adversity afflicting him, instead of philosophizing on his situation, has given himself up to despair; and as every man must live, either by good or bad means, he has become the dupe of bad, designing characters. Such was the case of the dissolute Probert; he was fourteen years ago a respectable wine merchant; he was unfortunate in business, got linked with a low set of gamblers, and finally terminated his career at the Old Bailey. Nothing is more important to a servant or a tradesman, and I may even say a man of the first rank, than the choice of friends and acquaintances; how many have imperceptibly been led into a connexion which has been like a mill stone round their necks, and a burden to their lives; it is something like putting gold, silver, and copper coin together—the copper will undoubtedly be benefited in appearance by the contact; but the gold and silver will lose their brilliancy and lustre. The noble Lord Eldon forewarned the public of the disasters which would follow the formation of so many Joint Stock Companies, and told them they must not expect any relief from Government. However his Lordship's advice was unheeded, and thousands have now to lament the loss of their property. I knew a man (I believe he was a German Jew) who had thirty prospectuses written out to form companies; he was generally to be seen at the Stock Exchange; I had a narrow escape of being lugged into some of his schemes. He was a man no doubt of considerable talent, but he turned out to be a man of straw; and took his departure for the continent soon after the bubbles burst, in the year 1825. Government

has lately done a great deal of good for poor tradesmen, by extending the amount of arrests from ten to twenty pounds: this will be the means of saving many a family from utter ruin, and likewise be the means of the creditor being paid; I hope it will be extended further next session of Parliament. All debts likewise under ten pounds should be obtainable in the Court of Requests, which would be a great relief to poor tradesmen, and give them time to pay, without the additional law expenses, which are often now double the debt. The removal of the combination act has been a great relief to the lower classes.

ACCIDENTAL FIRES PREVENTED.

The destructive element of Fire has an affinity in the consequences to that of burglary; generally taking place in the night, and often attended with the loss of life as well as property, as it is not very uncommon for thieves, after they have plundered the house, to set it on fire, for the purpose of preventing their diabolical deeds ever being discovered. Therefore we cannot consider one calamity without noticing the other; and as each evil often proceeds from neglect or carelessness, servants should always bear in mind the duty they owe to their masters and mistresses, and also that their own lives and property are equally at stake from one enemy as from the other: for, if they neglect to secure the house, thieves will break in; and if they are careless with the many fires they have to look after, and the numerous candles burning, fire may ensue. I have never forgot a curious remark I heard a General once make, who had travelled to many foreign parts, and observed, there was generally more care taken of old rags and old bones than of life and property; in many instances it is the fact. I have often seen that, after a robbery has been committed, every impediment has been adapted to secure the house from a second attack; and I can tell, in a slight survey of a house, from

the extra bars and bolts, if it has ever been attempted ; so it is in the case of fire, if it has once happened in a house, there will be a rope ladder, or some provision or other made for an escape. My desire in this publication is to make it as useful to the public as my humble talent will afford, and to show the necessity, when a house is building or built, of making those necessary guards to prevent both fire and burglary, which humanity and prudence can direct, as the preservation of life is the first call of nature. Every man, woman, and child, should ever remember, if an accident takes place wherever they may be, of a person having their clothes on fire, they should instantly fall on the ground, and by rolling themselves over, the fire will soon be subdued ; or take a hearth rug, or chair seat, or take off a coat to stifle the flames ; but on all occasions a person so unfortunate must not run about, as the air acts as a bellows, and while they are erect, the flames will ascend with great rapidity. This dreadful accident generally proceeds from ladies standing too near the fire, when the opening of the door, and the attraction of the fire, draws the light material of their dress into the flame ; if a lady could but have the presence of mind on the instant to fall down and hold her dress tight, or roll herself in the hearth rug, life would often be saved ; but as I have so often before observed, prevention is always the best cure ; and here nothing is so simple as a brass wire guard to hang before the grate. It is not unsightly, expensive, nor inconvenient ; and no fires in a drawing room, boudoir, or bedchamber should be even lighted without one, as the explosion of a slaty coal will sometimes take place, and be sufficiently ignited to fire any light material. I remember being at Brentwood many years ago, when the late gallant Admiral, Lord St. Vincent was seized with a vertigo, and fell on one of those abominable spikes of the grate, so much the fashion at that time. The butler providentially going into the room found his Lordship in the situation described, quite insensible, and very much scorched ; if a wire guard had been

put on the grate, such an accident could not have happened. Leaving a poker in the fire is a shameful negligence; for as soon as the coals burn away outrolls the red hot poker on the carpet or floor, and many houses have been burned down by this unpardonable practice. Having a candle near bed curtains or window curtains is a bad practice, although perhaps six inches distance, yet the opening of a door or a sudden gust of wind, will blow the curtain to the candle: no candle should be left within a foot of any light material. The leaving a candle on a shelf is very dangerous, as the upper shelf draws the light to a conical shape, and the point of the light is by that means elongated, and very intense, similar to the light from a blowpipe; the under part of shelves should always be lined with tin, which could be done for a trifling expense, and would prove an excellent safeguard. Reading in bed by a candle is a 'wicked' habit; how many have not only been accessory to their own deaths, but that of others, by sitting up in bed, and falling asleep with a book in their hand, when the candle has caught either the book or the bed furniture; if such an indulgence be allowed to an invalid, a secure lantern should be used. A lantern for a bed chamber light is much the safest, as it is always ready to be carried about the house; those floating, paltry, gas lamps, on the least puff of wind will go out; and placed in a trembling hand, will upset both oil and light, if attempted to be removed. Mr. A. Cotton's fire proof lantern is the best. Talc, of which the transparent part of the improved lantern is composed, is a mineral that resists the destructive element, fire, and is so flexible in its nature, that it is not liable to break or burn, like heated glass or horn. They are patronized by His Majesty's Ordnance, and the Hon. East India Company. They may be had made either for bed chambers or warehouses, stables, &c., at a moderate price.

Many chemical preparations have been recommended to render linen, &c., incombustible, but as these things are generally attended with a great deal of trouble and expense, and are often soon abandoned; perhaps the best and most secure

method would be for ladies to clothe themselves in the winter season with light stuff dresses, which would not only protect them from catching cold, but often preserve them from the dreadful calamity of accidental fires. Fifty years ago, all bed furniture, curtains, &c. were made of substantial stuffs; our forefathers would have laughed to scorn the idea of sleeping shrouded with chintz and gauze, and a twinkling gas light, floating in a glass tumbler, which even a poor fly with the vibration of its wings will extinguish; and although our fathers were evidently more scrupulous in preserving their lives from the dire effects of accident,—not through pride or fashion, yet history records their noble deeds in arms, and their humanity and personal courage. Should an alarm of fire or thieves destroy your peaceful rest, first remember, and you cannot too deeply impress on your mind your duty, to be as collected as possible; for on your presence of mind in the hour of danger, will depend, not only your own preservation, but perhaps the lives of others of your family. Should a smoke be perceptible in the room, immediately cast yourself on the floor:—you will then breathe freely, for whatever is lighter than air will rise, and smoke will ascend. My father put out a fire by crawling on his hands and knees with a bucket of water before him, when no other person would enter the house; such is often the case, when all run away, instead of attempting with a few buckets of water to extinguish the flames, before they break forth into a general conflagration. On an alarm of fire, ring all the bells within your reach, which will have the good effect of either bringing persons to your assistance, or may be the means of saving the lives of the inmates; next endeavour to ascertain if the fire be above or below, or in front, or the back of the building; if below, crawl near the floor, up to the trap door, where the ladder is ready for your escape on the roof, as I have recommended before; if the fire be above you, descend to the front or back of the premises, open no windows, and shut the doors, if you can possibly recollect yourself, as the admission

of cold air and possibly the wind will increase the rapidity of the flames. A single rope with knots about a yard distance from each, and fixed permanently near the window in your bed room, with a slip noose at the end, to let down your wife or children, and afterwards you can descend safely yourself, is an excellent fire escape, always ready, simple in its construction, a child may understand and use it, and the expense is trifling; but it must be a fixture, for if portable, the rope will be taken away for some other purpose, and in the hour of distress perhaps not to be found, as I have observed before of the trap door ladder. I have seen many ingenious contrivances for fire escapes, and I have never, when asked my opinion, objected to any of them, considering at the time the object for which they were intended—the preservation of life from fire: but the most simple methods are undoubtedly the best, and most to be depended on when required. A balcony to the drawing room windows, and a knotted rope from the bed room, will enable a person to descend into the balcony. I saw a case, where a rope was handed from the balcony up to the bed room, and the gentleman broke the glass of the sash, and secured the rope round the frame of the sash, and descended safely: two minutes after his providential escape, the bed room burst into a blaze. Many lives have been lost, and limbs dreadfully mangled, by jumping from the window on the first alarm, when, if the parties had waited a moment to ascertain the direction of the fire, they could have escaped down stairs, or up stairs to the roof. Presence of mind is every thing on these distressing occasions, and cannot be too much inculcated. Many have been saved from fire, by throwing out a bed; others by throwing out a blanket; the humane passengers have held the blanket tight, by means of which children and adults have been preserved. Others have tied sheets, blankets, &c., together, and have descended safely to the ground; some have dropped from a window, which is certainly safer than jumping, as they have reduced the height of the fall equal to their stature. Mr. Downer's fire alarm, which acts both with mercury and spirits, is an ingenious con-

trivance; it rings a bell for some minutes on the approach of fire, and will even go off if breathed on for a short time. Mr. Colbert, a most ingenious mechanic, invented a fire alarm of a similar description, which was patronized by Sir W. Congreve, Bart., and one of the machines was presented to his most Gracious Majesty, George IV. The king was pleased to patronize the invention, and I can testify that no useful invention, or meritorious work of art, was ever submitted to His Majesty's royal favour, but what was duly esteemed and liberally rewarded, if the parties were once successful in finding a key to fit the wards, and had sufficient interest to induce the subordinate officers of state, to present their humble claim and talent to the most magnanimous and noble hearted King in the world. Such base and sordid characters, as endeavour to prevent the happy union between such a gracious Sovereign and industrious, ingenious, and enlightened people, not only act like traitors to their King's good name, but they are the worst of tyrants to their countrymen.

The noble Duke of Rutland, since the fire at Belvoir Castle, has had fire engines, and a proper number of fire buckets: but the Rt. Hon. Earl Brownlow has been more prudent; his Lordship has been at a considerable expense in constructing powerful means to extinguish fire, both internally and externally, at his Lordship's mansion, Belton House. A water mill on the instant can be put to work, which throws the water with considerable force from the four corners of the house, and several portable engines are placed in various parts of the building, and a sufficient number of leather buckets are always at hand. A watchman perambulates, and calls the hour, and a very ingenious clock is fixed in the steward's room, and one in the steward's office, near the turret clock; the hands of the clock are fixed, and the dial with the hours marked thereon turns round with projecting studs at every quarter of an hour. The turret clock over the stables strikes the quarters; the watchman, then proceeds to the outside of the steward's room and pulls a handle, which communicates by means of a wire

and crank to a lever, and presses down one of the projecting studs on the face of the dial of the clock in the steward's room; the watchman then goes to the steward's office and pulls a handle, which has the same effect on the dial in the office; and should the watchman neglect to do his duty one quarter of an hour during the night, the projecting stud will stand out against him in the morning, and tell the tale at what time he was absent from his duty. This ingenious machine answers likewise as a clock for general purposes. The watchman is pleased with the task, as he says it gives him employment and keeps him awake.* His Lordship has thus given a precedent of what a Christian should do: employing means to protect not only his own life and property from fire, but showing a due regard to the lives of his family and servants.

The Humane Society for the recovery of persons from drowning, is a most laudable institution, and many valuable lives have no doubt been saved by the timely employment of the means which the society have provided for the good of the public. I would ask, why our Bible and Missionary Societies do not do something for the preservation of our corporeal bodies, which are held in trust for our mutual comfort and advantage, as well as looking so anxiously after the soul of man, which belongeth only to the Almighty, while they neglect to subscribe to those charities which form the basis of true religion. The voluntary sacrifice of life by fire, by the Hindoos, when the mind is prepared, and perhaps some stupifying drug taken, cannot equal the situation of persons waked out of their peaceful slumberings to endure the torments of an excruciating death by fire;—such has lately been the calamity attending the fire at Crutched Friars; three lives lost, and six persons saved,

* These kind of Clock Telltales introduced generally on the Watchmen's Beats, would prove an excellent check to their negligence of duty. They are made by Mr. Paine, who is also the inventor of the Self-illuminating Clock Dials erected at St. Giles's Church, London, St. Mary's, White-chapel, and St. Mary's, Islington,

by throwing themselves from the windows; and I lived a few years since, within a short distance from where five unfortunate persons were burned to death.* Is not there a great want of a Humane Society in this great metropolis, to promote the best means that can be adopted for the preservation of persons from the destructive element of fire, and to offer rewards to those persons who may be the means of rescuing an unfortunate family or an individual from so horrible a death. I should consider that deaths occasioned by fire in London, must more than treble those occasioned by drowning; had I the means, I certainly would endeavour to establish such a society in London.

RUSSELL'S FIRE PUMP.

"Mr. Russell has introduced a fire-extinguishing pump, for streets, public buildings, ships, &c., and with confidence recommends them to the particular attention of noblemen having large mansions, the heads of parishes, surveyors and builders, owners and captains of ships, &c.

"By the general introduction of this valuable article, the saving of lives and property is presumed incalculable; it is always ready for action, and to deliver the water it draws from the well, pond, or cistern, at any distance required, with great force directly on the fire, without the aid of turncocks or filling empty mains. It is recommended to cut the nozzle of all parish or street pumps to suit the screws attached to the hose-pipes of the parish engines; this is effectually done at the fire-pump at Aldgate, from which water was delivered with

* On the 27th of February, five persons lost their lives by fire at Mr. Bedle's, hatter, No. 4, Field Lane, Holborn; besides several being taken to the hospital. On the coroner's inquest a juryman, who was present at the fire, was asked, "Could any of the inmates have been saved had a ladder been procured?" "Yes, certainly," was the answer;—again, by the coroner, "Were there any ladders produced?" "Not that I saw," was the answer. The flames soon spread upwards, when fanned by the air.—*Morning Advertiser, February 29.*

great effective force at the distance of 1,000* feet from two extreme points. By this almost instantaneous supply, the fire would in many instances be entirely extinguished before a fire-engine could possibly arrive.

“W. R. is strongly impressed with the idea, that if the pumps already erected in the streets of London and its environs, the pumps in noblemen’s mansions, public buildings, and dwelling houses generally, were converted into fire-extinguishing pumps (the cost of which would be trivial compared to their utility), it would not only be the means of preserving lives and property in the event of fire, but would tend in a great degree to reduce the expense of fire insurance. In fact, every householder would in effect be in possession of a fire-extinguishing engine, merely by having a length of leather hose and branch pipe in his possession, suitable to the nozzle of the fire-pump in his house, or in his neighbourhood.

“Common pumps, whether fixed in dwelling houses, out-houses, grounds, streets, or squares, may be converted into fire-extinguishing pumps at a moderate expense.”

As charcoal is sometimes used in noblemen’s houses, to hasten the drying of walls and plastering, too much caution cannot be used in the disposing of it; many lives have been lost by persons, generally servants, being unacquainted with the stupifying and suffocating qualities of the fumes which evaporate from the charcoal, even after it may appear to be extinguished. Some years ago I was employed at the Rt. Hon. Lord Eardly’s, Lower Grosvenor Street. The Coachman’s room had been new plastered, and his Lordship having arrived in London earlier than was expected, a brasier was placed in the coachman’s room to hasten the drying of the plastering. The clerk of the works when he left the house had removed the brasier into the loft adjoining the coachman’s room, know-

* See Register of Arts and Sciences, No. 31; and London Mechanics’ Register, No. 108.

ing its deadly consequences. The coachman arrived rather late, and finding himself cold, put the brasier into his own room and went to rest. Poor fellow!—he never woke again. I saw him in the morning;—although he was dead he had all the appearance of rosy health;—all attempts to restore animation were useless. He bore the character of an honest, sober servant, and died regretted by his master and fellow servants.

Should pitch, tar, varnish, or spirits of any kind, take fire, throwing water upon them will spread destruction, instead of quenching the flames; the only method to be pursued is, to throw a piece of carpet, or any thing that will not easily burn, to deaden the flame. The destructive fire which happened a few years ago near Margaret Street, Cavendish Square, no doubt originated through a kettle, containing varnish, having taken fire; when the parties, instead of throwing on a piece of carpet, or mould, or even a coat to stifle the flames, became alarmed and made their escape, leaving the fire to take its course. Such is the case with chimneys on fire; although not always dangerous, they create considerable alarm:—the best means to put out the fire, is to stop up the fireplace with a wet blanket or piece of carpet; and if you can easily do so at the top of the chimney, the fire will soon go out; for without air, fire will not burn. For my part, I think a jury should be empaneled on every accidental fire, to endeavour to ascertain how the fire originated; and the legislators should award some punishment to the guilty persons, who are often the cause of the destruction of such immense property, and that to the imminent danger of the lives of His Majesty's subjects. Such a measure would no doubt operate as a check to the wanton and careless, of whatever denomination; as it is now, unless a demand is scrupled at by the Insurance Offices, all passes off without any further remark, than that it was an accident; and twenty rumours will be in circulation, and as many lies told, how it happened, without any serious investigation into the real cause, or any punishment inflicted on the offenders, if it

should be proved that they deserved it. The night police, which I have before recommended so strongly to the notice of Government, with the police offices always open, the assistance of respectable parish constables serving in their own right, and more able watchmen, would form a powerful body of men on the instant, to protect the property of the unfortunate sufferers, and assist in keeping the ground for the effective working of the engines. A fire in the night is like a beacon to the thieves who are prowling about; they immediately assemble around it, and commence their work of plunder; those who have frequently visited the fires of London know the fact: the avenues or streets near the fire are blocked up with numerous thieves, pickpockets, and abandoned women, using the most disgusting language, and exulting, as they always do, in the destruction of the property of the honest and industrious classes of society; and the poor sufferers not having sufficient space to stow away their property in safety, the thieves take advantage of the confusion, and, while pretending to assist them, plunder with impunity.

**HOUSES MADE FIRE-PROOF;
AND THE DESTRUCTIVE EFFECTS OF THE DRY ROT
PREVENTED.**

Having been for the last five and twenty years employed by the first nobility, and most eminent architects, both in town and country, I have had an opportunity of observing the various plans which have been adopted by each architect to improve the science of building; and, as regards order and taste, perhaps there is but little room left for improvement in the art; but the important object of building country mansions and private dwellings fire proof, appears to me to have been very much neglected: indeed, I have often felt sorry when I have left the noble mansion where I have been employed (erected at so much expense, and with so much attention to every comfort, and to the excellence of the workmanship), on reflecting how in a few hours the whole fabric might be destroyed

through carelessness and inattention; and I scarcely know an instance where a building has not either suffered some damage or narrowly escaped fire, even while the works were going forward: and is it to be wondered at, when every space under a staircase or landing in a large building is appropriated for a housemaid's closet; these magazines, stowed with lots of candles, wood, &c. to light the fires; hot cinders, coals; light band and packing boxes; snuffers full of carbonated tallow, matches, &c. I have more than once put out a candle left by mistake burning in these combustible depositories; and I have no doubt many destructive fires have issued forth from these closets. I am glad to find that His Majesty's architects turn their attention to this important affair; Mr. Wyattville, in the improvements in Windsor Castle, is attending to it; and Mr. Nash is building Buckingham House fire-proof; Mr. Smirk, the Custom House and the new Post Office; Mr. B. Wyatt built the late lamented Duke of York's new house in the same way; all the above buildings I have seen and examined. I trust it will be followed by a general system of building dwelling houses fire-proof: what can be more satisfactory to the mind than to sleep secure from the dreadful consequences of fire; or even the possibility of any destruction of valuable deeds, heir looms, pictures, or valuable articles of *Virtu* and property, which no money can possibly compensate. Sir Christopher Wren has given us a fine specimen of a geometrical staircase erected in masonry in St. Paul's church, and which useful and elegant invention has been properly introduced into many of our splendid buildings, under the appellation of a *well staircase*; and many of our modern dwelling houses have stone steps for the stairs, which form a secure retreat for the inmates in case of fire, if they are carefully constructed; but many gross absurdities are easily to be discovered in many which I have seen. The landings are made of timber, which if burned away would cut off all means of escape; and in fact if the wood landing places were taken away, the stone steps would fall altogether: and in other

buildings I have seen many with stone landings supported with wooden partitions, or of lath and plaster, which is equally as bad. Wherever the stone work has a bearing, the walls should undoubtedly be made of brickwork from the foundation upwards, to the top of the house. Wherever a housemaid's closet is allowed in a building, it should be surrounded with brick walls and the door iron-plated inside, with a spring to keep the door always closed, which would operate as a check, should any of the inflammable materials there deposited take fire; the exclusion of air and the iron plating would prevent any further communication, as the smoke confined would stifle the fire. If you place a lighted candle under a glass on a table, so as to exclude the air, the light will soon be extinguished: this observation applies to fires in general. The staircase represents a tunnel, and any doors opening into it, the street door left open, or a window opened, will introduce the rush of cold atmospheric air, and greatly increase the general conflagration; therefore, the closer a fire is kept the more time will be allowed for the arrival of those means invented for the purpose of stopping the progress of the devouring element. Many persons unacquainted with building affairs, imagine that to make a house fire proof will require all the materials to be made of metal, stone, or brickwork; but I can assure them it is not necessary. A judicious arrangement of the above materials will be only required, and that may be done without any detriment to the building, either in its appearance or in overloading the walls. The bricks laid in cement will be stronger than mortar, and the expense would not exceed ten, or at most fifteen per cent. more than building in the usual way, with timber, joist, and wood partitions. As I have observed before, a stone staircase forms an excellent escape from fire, if the whole of the masonry be fixed in brickwork, otherwise no dependance can be placed on its utility. All partitions should be made of brickwork, and the main beams, joists, &c., of each floor, should be made of cast iron; a house thus framed, we will call the skeleton, and

if every apartment were then filled with combustibles, and set light to, every part would remain firm, and retain its original position. After this you may batten your external walls with lath and plaster to keep out the damp; and plaster your ceiling and run the cornice; the internal wall or partitions may be plastered only; fix your dados, lay down your floor boards, fix the skirting boards, architraves, doors, &c. Now we will suppose the curtain of a window to take fire, what harm could it do more than destroy it, and disfigure the painting: it could not set fire to the floor above, because the flames could not reach it, and the joists are made of iron. If you wish to be even more safe, use hoop iron for lathing; it is cheap enough: suppose the dado takes fire, the dado only will burn, and that may be checked by nailing thin copper along the grounds of the dado to the wall, which will prevent a current of air; and a small net work may be introduced along the cornice to give sufficient air to the lathing and battening, and form at the same time an ornament. Who ever heard of a fire commencing with a door, or a floor which was closely fitted together? As fire and flame ascend, it is difficult to make wood burn in a horizontal position, therefore there is no danger to be apprehended from a floor burning, when laid on iron joists. If you wish to be still more secure, lay down cast iron between the doors that communicate between each room, the carpet will cover it, and it will effectually prevent fire from spreading. It is therefore evident, if this plan were adopted, no fires of any magnitude would take place, and the lives and property of the public and individuals be securely protected. Government have enacted laws respecting party walls, chimneys, &c., which the public must duly appreciate as most excellent preventives to the progress of fires.

The new fashion of having high skirting boards or plinths instead of dados in the rooms is highly to be commended: I have seen the linings between door ways and skirting boards made of slate, which is a good plan to prevent the communication of fire. Mr. Nash has introduced a most capital plan at

Buckingham House in forming substantial floors, by uniting the iron joist with a hollow tile and cement, turned on with a slight curve between each joist, which unites the whole into a solid base, and which scarcely admits of any shake or elasticity; this must likewise preserve the ceilings from those cracks so often seen in spacious rooms. As a matter of precaution, the iron joists are all tried with immense weights before they leave the foundry; I have thought one or two holes through each joist, with a round wrought iron rod to pass throughout, would be a very safe plan to prevent accidents; as yet, however, I have not heard of any accidents having taken place where the walls were proportionably strong to carry the weight. A piece of stone should always be fixed in the wall to carry the ends of the joist. The roof has no need to be made of iron, as there is nothing above to take fire, and if covered with strong slating, no fire can fall to endanger the wood work; the ceiling of the attic should be wood joists, as the upper parts of buildings should be made as light as may be consistent with sufficient strength. No person should be allowed to go into the roof without a fire proof lantern, as recommended before. The ladder should be a fixture which leads to the roof, and the way out on the roof made easy and secure, as an escape from fire, having those strong bolts and securities against the entrance of thieves into the house, which are fully explained under the head "housebreaking." The shameful practice which I have often observed among carpenters when laying the floors, in sweeping shavings and pieces of wood, sawdust, &c., between the joists, cannot be too much reprobated, as a spark falling between the joists of the boards (which in some of the modern built houses are wide enough to admit of a slice of cheese to feed the young mice) would be sufficient to set the House on fire. Mr. Hiot's patent for making circular flues, and his famous bricks which work the flue into the brickwork to any sweep which may be required, are most laudable inventions, as they will supersede the cruel use of climbing boys:

that is done is, to state whether he is black, white, or gray, and this is often done after the horse is killed; when one skin may be exchanged for another. What I shall recommend is, that no horse be slaughtered for twenty-four hours after he arrives at the slaughter house (what expense would it be to give a little corn, or hay and water, to the poor animal, who has only so few hours to live). This regulation would allow time for the proprietor, or the police officer, to trace any horse which may have been stolen, as is now the case in tracing the bodies of relatives which have been taken from their graves. Many have been recovered by a speedy search after them, and the above plan would give some time for such purpose. No horse should be slaughtered without an order from the proprietor, signed by the constable or overseer of the parish where he is brought from, with a description as to height, colour, and any particular mark, with the name of the disorder which afflicts him. There should be printed forms left with every parish constable for the above purpose; every country dealer in dog horses, should be compelled to bring such a certificate with him of each horse, and go to the constable of the first post town nearest London, and compare the certificates with the horse, that the constable may see that all is right; and should any suspicion arise, the constable should detain the man until he has written, or otherwise made inquiries into the circumstances, before he suffers the man to depart;—say Uxbridge, Hounslow, Watford, Barnet, Edmonton, Woodford, Romford, Dartford, Croydon, Kingston, &c.; and penalties, and a little exercise at the tread-mill, on the breach or neglect of performing this duty, both to the knacker, if he slaughters horses without receiving these certificates, and entering each in a book, and filing the certificate; and to the owners and constables for any breach of their duty in filling up the blank certificates. How well could Mr. Coleman, the Professor of the College, and his assistants, regulate the above system at the establishment I have proposed to be erected: the flesh of the

animals, not fit for consumption, would be buried with quicklime: those horses which might be sent to be slaughtered by persons ignorant of their condition, would be properly examined; and if hope were entertained of their recovery, a note sent to the proprietor, stating the circumstances, would be highly grateful to those who value so docile and useful a creature, created by our Maker for our use and amusement; and what a fund of valuable information would the students receive in the way of ocular demonstration of the fatality of diseases, so numerous as they are, which afflict the horse; and, above all, how many human lives would be saved by the preventives placed in the way of horse stealing? It certainly ought to emanate from such an establishment, so well calculated as it is for the purpose, and where the professor and assistants live so comfortably, and are so handsomely rewarded for their labours; this would inspire a greater interest in the minds of the young students who are looking out for a maintenance, by the pursuit of veterinary knowledge. It surely then becomes a duty upon them collectively and individually, to do all within their power to alleviate the suffering of, and to protect the horse, not only from ill-treatment, but from starvation and savage brutality, which I know they often experience in these slaughter houses, as they are now conducted.*

I hope they will take the care of the horse hereafter to themselves, in whose hands he only should be placed. See what has been done by Mr. Martin, the late worthy member for Galway:—how very few instances do you see or hear of now, of cruelty practised toward the brute creation, and how common

The following statement is about the amount of consumption of horses in London per day:—Cow Cross, 20; Whitechapel, 20; Friars' Street, Blackfriars, 4; Belle Isle, 2. The value of a horse when dead amounts to something considerable: his skin is worth 9s.; bones, 10s.; flesh, 12s. per cwt.; fat, 25s. per cwt. to make soap; hoofs, 6s. per hundred, to make Prussian blue, sailors' buttons, and snuff boxes; hair, tail, and mane, 9d. per lb.; old horse shoes, 10s. per cwt.; and marrow, 1s. per pot, said to be good for rheumatic pains.

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gate, and when they are wanted for fire, the two keys are not to be found for some time; and when they are obtained, the ladders, alas! arrive too late to be of any service: and there is great difficulty in conveying a long ladder through a crowd of people, and afterwards to rear it. The portable ladders are carried much more quickly (despatch is every thing on these occasions), and they are placed in a moment. Mr. Gregory has one on wheels which supports itself; and a fireman can ascend with the water branch, and do ten times more execution than by playing in an inclined direction from the ground; many noblemen have these ladders at their country mansions. A short time ago one of the St. Ann's ladders was used by a painter, to paint the cornice round the church; it broke, and the poor fellow fell on the pavement and was killed. There is great neglect in parish affairs, the officers are too fond of their dinner parties; and the inhabitants paying scot and lot should look sharper after these things, and get rid of Select Vestries. The ladders should be kept well painted, and of easy access; and be occasionally examined. The engines should be often inspected, the leather hose, and other parts kept well oiled. Here I will suggest an improvement which should be adopted by the water and fire companies—they gain amply by the public, and should do all in their power to protect their friends and subscribers. A turncock should sit up very night at each watch-house, and this man should be instructed in the management of the engine; this plan would be a great advantage: how many fires are burning a considerable time before the firemen can obtain a supply of water. By the above means the engine would arrive and be set properly at work much sooner, and the water laid on immediately; as the case is now, the constable of the night cannot leave the watch-house; his duty is to take the charges, which are generally numerous, while the fire is raging, and the thieves plundering the unfortunate sufferers. The only persons who can be spared to go with the engines are the watch-house keeper and the watchmen

who have collected together, none of whom understand how to put the engine to work; in this case the portable fire ladders should be always placed on the top of the engine, to be carried with it. I have often thought that the united efforts of engines could be applied with additional powers and effect, by means of what I will term a Union Hose, which would enable any number of engines to play into one branch, which would throw the water in larger quantity, and I think it would be the means of carrying the water much farther: for a small quantity of water thrown on an intense combustible matter, will only increase the burning more rapidly; while if a large quantity is dashed at once on the burning heap, it would instantly be extinguished. If rewards, and appropriate medals were struck, with a blank side for an inscription to be engraved, stating the merits of the individual who has risked his life to save his fellow creature, either from fire or water, or from the murdering hand of robbers, they would no doubt act as a stimulus to the enterprising and brave; and why should not a brave police officer, or any individual who renders a public service to his country, be equally honoured and rewarded with the soldier, who exposes his life to defend it? I hope we may soon have the pleasure to hear of the establishment of a Humane Society for the above purpose, which would be far more important to the public than the Mendicity or any other Society. The Humane Society perhaps may be induced to extend their charitable views and means, to so noble and benevolent an undertaking. Iron chests and iron bookcases are not to be depended on, unless they are fixed in brick work, and brick walls should surround the place where they are to be fixed; otherwise, should a fire take place, the surrounding partitions (if made of wood, or lath and plaster) will burn away, and the iron chest become heated to that degree, that all papers therein deposited would be consumed; and if the iron chest should rest on a wood floor, or be supported by timber in any way, when the timber burns away, it must appear plain, that the

weight of the chest would carry it to the bottom of the building among the ruins, where the various combustible matter is raging with intense heat. I have seen a large iron chest in this situation with the door bulged and partly opened by the fall, and the iron had all the appearance of having been red hot. Mr. Joseph Loscombe, in his complete English Tradesman, which is a most useful work for young beginners in trade, recommends keeping a duplicate or pocket ledger, in case of fire, and states, "I have been witness to the lamentable distress a tradesman has been reduced to by the loss of his books, when a fire has begun in the very shop or warehouse; and he has not only lost all his goods, but his books too, so that he has not been able to make out his debts, or demand his due of his debtors."

A small tin or iron portable box to contain notes, cash, and particular deeds or papers, is a good thing for private individuals; it should be kept in the closet in the bed room, secured with a patent lock, and on going to rest the closet door should be unlocked, that in case of fire it may be removed on the instant.

"As the principles and operations of gas-lighting are easily understood, a slight acquaintance with the subject will tend to convince any thinking person, that the dangers attendant upon the use of gas, with its consequent risk of accidents, are comparatively trivial; and if the ordinary degree of care and attention only be bestowed upon its management which other useful things receive, even the chance of disasters occurring may be almost completely prevented. An escape of the gas is speedily known by the odour it produces, and consequently indicates the necessity of immediately ascertaining the cause, in order to apply the appropriate remedy; and if it should proceed from an accidental injury to the pipes of supply, or any other casual circumstance, the defect may in general be readily discovered, and very soon repaired, by those who are connected with the gas-works; for they have always the materials and skilful workmen in readiness for such occasions.

"When a strong smell of gas is perceived, a leakage from

some cause must have taken place; and every door and window in the room which may contain it, should be opened, that the mixture of gas and atmospheric air may escape. Neither lighted candle nor any other inflamed substance should be introduced, or allowed to approach the place, until the whole of the mixture of common air and gas is completely expelled, and the room thoroughly ventilated. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon every person, who is in the practice of using gas-lights, that the gas is not explosive of itself, in the state the public receive it from the gas-works; and to render it capable of exploding, it requires to be mixed in various proportions of from five portions of coal gas to twelve of atmospheric air; and when mixed in any of these proportions, it will not explode unless flame come into contact with it. Whenever, therefore, any escape of the gas may be discovered to have taken place, the proper recourse is ventilation without delay, and preventing the introduction of a lighted candle or any other kind of flame where the circumstance may occur. Proper ventilation, and keeping away flame, will infallibly tend to prevent accidents from explosion. These are facts which every one should know, and then he may use gas-lights not only without apprehension, but with the most perfect satisfaction."

While I am stating these preventives to the destruction of life and property, another melancholy fire has happened;—February—"a little after two o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the White Horse public house, Gilbert Street, Clare Market, which at one time threatened destruction to the adjoining premises; the house was full of lodgers; two persons lost their lives, and twelve persons were either taken to the hospital or carried to the workhouse. Several of the jurymen expressed their dissatisfaction at the neglect of the parish officers, in not having the keys of the fire ladders left at the watch-house; had it been the case, the constable said all the inmates could have been saved."—*From the Globe and Traveller.*

Of what use can it be to lock up fire ladders? They are not likely to be stolen; who could take away such long ladders without being detected, and what money could they get for them? The fire ladders, as I have observed before, should be three or four separate ladders, and made on the plan of Mr. Gregory's Patent; one does for the first story, two together for the second story, and the three united for the third story; they can be put up in a few seconds: no engine should go out without the ladders being placed on the top of the engine.

PREVENTIVES AGAINST HORSE STEALING.

The crime of horse stealing having lately increased to such an alarming degree, so much so as to call forth observations of regret from all the Judges, particularly on the last circuit, I have endeavoured to collect all the information in my power, with a view to check, if not effectually to remove, this most disgraceful traffic, and wanton sacrifice of so many noble and useful animals. Since the establishment of that excellent institution, the Veterinary College, the economy of the horse is much better understood; the veterinary profession and practice is now in general operation throughout (I may say) the civilized world; and conceit, brutality, and ignorance, so often the characteristics of the unlearned and obstinate farrier, are now giving way to the skill of science. I am glad to find the members of the old school at last giving way, and now sending their sons to the College; I have hopes in a few years more none will be allowed by law to operate on *horses*, but those duly authorized, having obtained their regular diploma from the College (except the owners themselves); for did gentlemen and tradesmen know the number of valuable horses which are sent to the knacker's, through misapplied medicines and practices of unskilful farriers, prejudiced grooms, and coachmen, they would never send a horse to be killed, without having him first examined by a veterinary surgeon; or indeed even employ any other than a professional character.

They may be assured it would prove ultimately the cheapest method.

The largest slaughter houses for horses are at Cow Cross, White Chapel, and a place called Belle Isle, near Battle Bridge. This place is convenient for the young students at the Veterinary College, Camden Town; they often obtain useful information of the ultimate results of disease; the cause of destruction to the animal is often thereby discovered, and the knowledge of the art promoted. The College has a large piece of ground near the building, now useless, which should be appropriated as the only slaughter house for horses within ten miles of London. This would not only advance the veterinary art, by giving opportunities for the young pupils to view the progress and consequences of diseases, but would operate as a check to the tricks and knavery of hostlers; the life of many valuable horses would be saved, and the property of the owners be secured; and not, as is now the case, be made a juggle of between the hostler and knacker. I know the fact, many horses that have been sent there for one or two pounds, have been sold for twenty, and some forty pounds, and are now running in the mail coaches; and other miserable horses are sold to costermongers and hackney coachmen, to disgrace our public streets. These knackers are enabled to boast of their gaining thousands by the folly of the public. My observations (respecting grants made by the Government to companies and *prohibitions*, of every denomination) run generally through this publication; and apply with considerable importance on this subject, as a preventive to horse stealing. The Government lent their aid in establishing the Veterinary College; and do now allow one thousand a year for the advancement of Veterinary Science. The College therefore should be called on to erect a proper building (as they have ample room for it); and this could be done in such a manner as not to offend any neighbour, or cause any nuisance, as the slaughtering of horses may be performed without any smell; and the arrangements of

the building, and the conveyance of horses to the depot, be such, as to dispose of every part without offending public decency, as is now the case in conveying the poor ill-used creatures to their doom through the public roads and streets of London, in an open cart, with no covering whatever to their lacerated and diseased carcasses. Where is the person who has not often witnessed these disgusting and revolting scenes? I have no doubt that many delicate females in particular situations have suffered severely from such filthy exhibitions: and what can be more dangerous to the lives of the public, than to have their domestic animals, distributed all over London, principally fed with the often putrid flesh of horses, which have died with the farcy-glanders, and other pestilential diseases, and which often, no doubt, produces madness in the dogs that feed upon it? Dr. Buchan states, in his Domestic Medicine, "This disease is most frequent after long, dry, hot seasons; and such dogs as live upon putrid, stinking carrion, without having enough of fresh water." I had my only son, about six years of age, bit by a red coloured terrier dog, which was no doubt rabid (such dogs are more generally afflicted with madness): he was bit severely in the hand; my wife immediately soaked his hand in warm water, and squeezed out the blood as much as possible. I was of course sent for; any parent will guess the distress of my feelings on the occasion. It occurred to me that sucking would draw the blood towards the wound, I therefore did so for some minutes, occasionally spitting away the blood, and afterwards washed out my mouth well with sweet oil and vinegar. I left my wife to do the same, while I went to make further inquiry respecting the dog, and found he had bitten several persons without any provocation, as well as several dogs. I then took my son to Mr. Youatt, a veterinary surgeon in Nassau Street, near Middlesex Hospital, and had the wounds cauterized, as well as a bite on the thigh. Mr. Youatt has attended many hundred cases of hydrophobia, and never remembered such a circumstance as this of the parties having

sucked the wound before, although he had no doubt of its doing good; and he considered we were safe from any baneful consequences. But our neighbours and ourselves, you may imagine, felt no inconsiderable alarm for the result, for Mr. Youatt attended one of the dogs bitten for some time, and afterwards ordered him to be killed; he exhibited the usual symptoms—it is now about two years and a half since, and, thank the Almighty, we are safe from danger. I give this case, hoping that it may be useful to the public, as persons so unfortunately situated, on the instant may perhaps suck the wound themselves, or get a person to do it for them; but I would not have them depend on sucking only, but go immediately to the nearest surgeon, have the wound cauterized, and take and follow up any other advice the surgeon may give. After the wound is well washed in warm water, and the blood squeezed out, and sucked for some time, the application of common salt and vinegar is recommended by Dr. Buchan, which may be used until you arrive at the surgeon's.*

We will now return to the slaughter house. The knacker takes out a licence to slay horses in a certain house or building, for which he pays two pounds per year. An inspector is appointed by the parish, to register the description of the horses, and the knacker does the same, which is kept in a book for the purpose. Now this is like most other parish affairs of late years, a complete humbug:—the inspector may be a tailor, tinker, or of any other business, instead of being a man having sufficient judgment of a horse, and how to describe him properly; all

* The following recommendation is copied from the *Morning Advertiser*, February 25.—“*Means to be immediately used when bitten by a mad dog.*—A correspondent requests us to state, that Edward Gatacre, Esq., of Gatacre Park, Shropshire, attributed his recovery from the bite of a rabid animal to the use of the following recipe:—Wash the wound well with water poured from the spout of a tea kettle or pump, and rub it with a linen rag tied upon a stick; when dry, put upon the wound as much gunpowder as will prime a gun, and set fire to it immediately; after which, treat it as a common burn or scald.”

that is done is, to state whether he is black, white, or gray, and this is often done after the horse is killed; when one skin may be exchanged for another. What I shall recommend is, that no horse be slaughtered for twenty-four hours after he arrives at the slaughter house (what expense would it be to give a little corn, or hay and water, to the poor animal, who has only so few hours to live). This regulation would allow time for the proprietor, or the police officer, to trace any horse which may have been stolen, as is now the case in tracing the bodies of relatives which have been taken from their graves. Many have been recovered by a speedy search after them, and the above plan would give some time for such purpose. No horse should be slaughtered without an order from the proprietor, signed by the constable or overseer of the parish where he is brought from, with a description as to height, colour, and any particular mark, with the name of the disorder which afflicts him. There should be printed forms left with every parish constable for the above purpose; every country dealer in dog horses, should be compelled to bring such a certificate with him of each horse, and go to the constable of the first post town nearest London, and compare the certificates with the horse, that the constable may see that all is right; and should any suspicion arise, the constable should detain the man until he has written, or otherwise made inquiries into the circumstances, before he suffers the man to depart;—say Uxbridge, Hounslow, Watford, Barnet, Edmonton, Woodford, Romford, Dartford, Croydon, Kingston, &c.; and penalties, and a little exercise at the tread-mill, on the breach or neglect of performing this duty, both to the knacker, if he slaughters horses without receiving these certificates, and entering each in a book, and filing the certificate; and to the owners and constables for any breach of their duty in filling up the blank certificates. How well could Mr. Coleman, the Professor of the College, and his assistants, regulate the above system at the establishment I have proposed to be erected: the flesh of the

animals, not fit for consumption, would be buried with quicklime: those horses which might be sent to be slaughtered by persons ignorant of their condition, would be properly examined; and if hope were entertained of their recovery, a note sent to the proprietor, stating the circumstances, would be highly grateful to those who value so docile and useful a creature, created by our Maker for our use and amusement; and what a fund of valuable information would the students receive in the way of ocular demonstration of the fatality of diseases, so numerous as they are, which afflict the horse; and, above all, how many human lives would be saved by the preventives placed in the way of horse stealing? It certainly ought to emanate from such an establishment, so well calculated as it is for the purpose, and where the professor and assistants live so comfortably, and are so handsomely rewarded for their labours; this would inspire a greater interest in the minds of the young students who are looking out for a maintenance, by the pursuit of veterinary knowledge. It surely then becomes a duty upon them collectively and individually, to do all within their power to alleviate the suffering of, and to protect the horse, not only from ill-treatment, but from starvation and savage brutality, which I know they often experience in these slaughter houses, as they are now conducted.*

I hope they will take the care of the horse hereafter to themselves, in whose hands he only should be placed. See what has been done by Mr. Martin, the late worthy member for Galway:—how very few instances do you see or hear of now, of cruelty practised toward the brute creation, and how common

The following statement is about the amount of consumption of horses in London per day:—Cow Cross, 20; Whitechapel, 20; Friars' Street, Blackfriars, 4; Belle Isle, 2. The value of a horse when dead amounts to something considerable: his skin is worth 9s.; bones, 10s.; flesh, 12s. per cwt.; fat, 25s. per cwt. to make soap; hoofs, 6s. per hundred, to make Prussian blue, sailors' buttons, and snuff boxes; hair, tail, and mane, 9d. per lb.; old horse shoes, 10s. per cwt.; and marrow, 1s. per pot, said to be good for rheumatic pains.

was it twenty years ago in the streets of the metropolis. Orpheus was said to charm the brutes with his music, but Mr. Martin has not only protected them from savage treatment, but at the same time he has improved the brutal minds of the drovers and conductors, which has been the means of advancing more feeling and civilization among the lowest orders. The observations I have made do not interfere with gentlemen, or the owners of horses, slaughtering them for the use of their dog kennels; but in this instance, if they purchase a horse for the above purpose, a certificate should be signed by the owner of the horse, and a veterinary surgeon, or farrier of the village or parish, and the constable or overseer, which certificate should be sent back to the constable of the parish, and kept by him, signed by the gentleman, or a servant by his order, who has received the horse. The above plan could easily be brought into operation all over the united kingdom, and I have no doubt would materially check the crime, if not entirely prevent it; with the additional precaution of proprietors of horses taking more pains to secure their stable doors, and other out-premises. Many stable doors in the country have only a common latch, which is almost a criminal neglect on the part of the owners, as it offers a temptation to poverty and idleness, and often ends with the miserable execution of the offender. The windows of stables should be iron-barred, in the same manner as I have recommended for area windows; the door should be lined with sheet iron, screwed on the door, as upon area doors, and Chubb's patent locks or padlocks are no doubt the best for security that can be used. These detector locks are patronized by the Honourable the Navy Board, and the Honourable the Board of Ordnance; and the strong rooms, closets, and iron chests, in the pay offices of the dock yards, are secured by locks of the above description. There are many contrivances to be made for hobbling or securing a horse while he is exposed in the fields, or paddocks, grazing, so as to prevent his travelling far, or being stolen away. Before the steed is stolen, lock the stable

door: and I trust the celebrated professor, Mr. Coleman, will not consider himself degraded by doing what the country may consider to be his duty; as all that could be required of him would be his judgment and attention in this affair, to appoint proper persons necessary to superintend and carry the above arrangements into effect. As stabling and out-buildings are liable to take fire, and many valuable horses have been destroyed by fire, Mr. Newman, of Regent Street, has set a praiseworthy example to the public, by erecting his new stabling fire proof; they are well worthy the inspection of any gentlemen of the turf, for strength, durability, neatness, and convenience; the whole of the arrangement reflects the highest credit on the talent, perseverance, and generosity of Mr. Newman, having been done entirely under his own plans and superintendence. There is no animal so difficult to remove from a building on fire as the horse; the fine sense of smell he possesses, and the glare of light operating in a most powerful manner on his optic nerves, leaves him no power to move, he becomes (as it were) petrified; the only way, then, to remove him to a place of safety is to cover his eyes with a handkerchief or bandage; you may then lead him where you please. The same methods will answer for other animals. Grooms and coachmen are generally acquainted with the circumstance; but as many persons are often accidentally called to assist at fires, who are perhaps not acquainted with the fact, I thought it would be useful as a remembrance to state the above, as they would find it impossible to remove the poor animals any other way.

PRISONS.

After crime has been committed, then its fatal consequences await the criminal, and the public are but little benefited by the incarceration and punishments inflicted on the individuals who have plundered them of their property. As the thieves generally contrive, by some means or other, either to make away

with the booty they have obtained themselves, or dispose of it among their relatives or companions in guilt, before they arrive at the gaol, or become transported beyond the seas, it must be obvious that the best means which can be adopted by government and the public, for the prevention of crime, is not only the most merciful plan, but the most certain method of preserving life and property from destruction, and the annals of our history from the stain of so many executions. No one can doubt the strength or magnitude of prisons in this country to be sufficient for the purpose for which they are erected; but are they to be considered honourable or ornamental to a civilized and christian country? I think every feeling and honourable man will say, no: they are like the fungi or excrescences which grow sometimes out of the healthy tree and its branches, and spoil both its beauty and symmetry. Then let us adopt those remedies and preventives for the growth of vice and crime, which self preservation, prudence, experience, and mercy dictate, for the glory of our country, and the honour of mankind.

The largest prison out of London is at Maidstone; on entering the town it presents a most formidable appearance, more like the palace of a nabob than a gaol; and such is the case in many other parts of the country. The largest I know of in London is the House of Correction in Coldbath Fields, but as the strength and magnitude of these buildings for the punishment of crimes, misdemeanors, unfortunate vagrants, and poor and rich debtors, is not to be doubted, and it is not my object to detail them, I will pass on to make a few remarks respecting the internal arrangements, classification, and employment of the prisoners. There are in London and the suburbs, thirteen prisons for criminals and debtors; and such is the want of equality, arrangement, and system, in these establishments, that not two of them are conducted on the same plan.

At Whitecross Street, a very liberal allowance of food is made for poor debtors, and a long work shop is established, but the time of visiting is limited; whereas at the Marshalsea very

little allowance of food is provided, but the time of visiting is till nine o'clock. Few trades can be carried on for want of more space, and a separate workshop. There is also a prison adjoining, belonging to the Admiralty, and a marine is now committed for one year's imprisonment, after having received sentence of flogging; this man is allowed to mix with the debtors, and enjoys nearly every privilege which a poor debtor does. Is this equity? Similar is the case at Tothill Fields Bridewell, and the prison is also too confined. I have seen skeleton keys and picklocks cut out on the wood forms: but the place allotted for apprentices is very properly managed; they are kept separate from the rest of the prisoners, and are confined in separate rooms, and made to pick oakum.

The New County Gaol and House of Correction, in Horse-monger Lane, is conducted on a very rigid plan, as regards poor debtors. You cannot enter without giving the name of the debtor—there is no accommodation for beer, &c. inside the prison, and I believe the quantity is very limited.

There are but few persons residing in London who have not visited the King's Bench Prison; here is more liberty granted, and a considerable licence allowed to those who have money, or friends to assist them, to tire out the patience of their unfortunate creditors. I have heard young unprincipled men of fashion boasting in the coffee room, how they would punish the tailors, and boot-makers, and wine-merchants again, when they were set at liberty; and many are living in the greatest luxury, and boasting of their thousands, while their unfortunate creditors and families are suffering every privation to maintain their credit out of doors. Such also, more or less, is the case in the Fleet Prison, and in all other prisons for debtors. The two last named prisons have the privilege of taking the rules, which enables a debtor to enjoy himself with his family in comfort, until he dies, before which, he takes especial care to make over his property to his family or relatives: thus defeating both law and justice. The citizens of London allow more food, privi-

leges and comforts to their prisoners confined for debt, than perhaps any other people in the world; and the numerous alms houses, erected and endowed by charitable individuals, and by their numerous Companies, are the proudest ornament of this civilized country; but alas! of late years, how seldom do we hear of such charitable deeds being performed; it seems to be quite an old fashion, and not suitable to the present times.

No person can, I think, doubt the propriety of separating prisons for debt from those erected for the punishment of criminals; they should be allowed more space of ground, have convenient workshops, and be all arranged upon one plan, as to allowance of food, privileges, fees, &c.; for if a man, from unforeseen misfortunes, losses in trade, illness, or a numerous family, or from calamity of any kind, be reduced so much in circumstances as to be driven to a prison, surely such an unfortunate individual has already suffered enough in mind and body, to render him and his family objects of pity and compassion, rather than of revenge and oppression; and he does not deserve to be treated as a criminal, when he has done his best to live respectably, and, failing, is willing to give up all he may possess for the benefit of his creditors. Not so the man who enters a prison with plenty of money in his pocket. The Marshalsea, Fleet, or Whitecross Street prisons, will not suit his purpose, the debtors are too poor, and the prison is not respectable enough; he therefore moves to the King's Bench, to take his comforts and spend the money which should be otherwise applied towards paying his just debts. There should not be any difference in the admission and accommodation fees and expenses of prisons for debtors, whether the sum be of large or small amount.

Since the passing of the late act, extending the amount of arrests from fifteen to twenty pounds, there is now a falling off in the Marshalsea Prison only, of two thirds of the number which were formerly confined when the amount was for fifteen pounds; and were the Courts of Request extended to recover

to the amount of ten pounds, it would be a great relief to both debtor and creditor, and prevent a great deal of distress and misery in the country. There is a want of christian feeling very often in the creditor, who is apt to form a wrong or hasty opinion of the honest intentions of the debtor towards him, and listening to the slanderous reports of neighbours, and busy bodies, he grows warm with anger and disappointment—off he goes to his attorney: he commences the work of destruction, and when once begun, it resembles in its effects the dreadful calamity of fire. No one can tell where it will end; and often both creditor and debtor are made the instruments and prey of designing men; lawyers, sheriffs' officers, brokers, &c. come in for the spoils and ruin of both. Then how much better would it be to do as the Scripture advises—be slow to anger, and do to others as you would be done unto; this would make the rugged path of life a little smoother, and amply repay the kind feelings of the heart, by affording consolation, should you ever know the severe reverse of fortune yourself. Therefore, it is not only more just, but even more to your interest, towards recovering your money, to grant the full extent of time your circumstances will possibly allow, and agree to take it by instalments, before you commence law proceedings; for if a man owes you twenty pounds, and cannot pay you, how do you calculate to obtain it, by throwing him into prison, where the twenty pounds will increase by law expenses and prison fees, &c. to forty pounds, before he can be released by taking the benefit of the insolvent act? and if your debtor follows any mechanical branch of business which cannot be carried on within the walls of a prison, what chance has he to pay you, when you have crippled his means of payment? and even if he can follow his business inside the walls of a prison, the inconveniences and extra expenses of employing persons to fetch the materials, and do the outside business of carrying the work home, and collecting the money, will seldom enable a good workman to do any more than support himself and family.

I have been informed there is a Society, or it more properly deserves the name of an inquisition, of petty tradesmen, many of whom never possessed a hundred pounds in their lives, or knew the loss of ten pounds in business; yet they go prying about, collecting all the news they can pick up of insolvents, and those who have dishonoured a bill, or who are in any way straightened in circumstances, or who have met with losses, and enter their names in a book alphabetically, for the protection of the sordid-minded miserable subscribers—spreading distrust and mischief wherever they go. Can any thing be more contemptible, or more dangerous in a commercial city like London, than such mean and dark proceedings? How many of the first merchants, tradesmen, and even bankers, have been injured by the bitter tongue of slander, envy, and malice? The tremendous panic which took place in the year 1825 was chiefly attributable to the circulation of lies, which brought on a want of confidence; the consequence was, those who were first attacked, for want of timely notice, stopped payment: but when the evil became more generally known, every banker was at his post: what were the words of Sir William Curtis, Bart. on this trying occasion, “Three sheet-anchors, my boys, to our ship;” so it proved, by weathering the storm and standing like a rock, although the citizens seemed determined to try the honourable Baronet’s weight of metal—the experiment was of use; all was right. Sir Claude Scott, Bart. has, however, set an example of what a banker should do towards the security of the property of individuals invested in his hands, which, as no interest is paid for the use of it, should remain sacred to the owner, and not be made liable to any risk whatsoever. Sir Claude Scott told me, that he had vested in Bank of England stocks, four hundred thousand pounds, the principal of which should not be touched in any way as long as his name remained in the firm.

There are no establishments in the Kingdom which require classification more than the Parish Workhouses; as they are

now conducted without any regard to character, respectability, age, or health; all are mixed together, bad, good, and indifferent; the idiot, the maniac, the drunkard, the profane and obscene, with the idle and filthy. To associate with such an incongruous mass of wretchedness, where is there an honourable, industrious, and virtuous character, but would shrink with horror at the idea; and many have been known to commit suicide, rather than brook such scenes of disgrace. It would be easy to divide workhouses into different wards; and the unfortunate inmates who have paid poor rates and are of good report in the parish, should certainly be entitled to receive more kindness and attention than those who have never contributed towards the maintenance of the poor, and who have been known to have lived dissolute and vicious lives.

There is no country in the world so subject, both in its climate and circumstances, to continual changes as old England; therefore no person, however experienced and sagacious, can sit down with perfect confidence and say to himself, "Now I am a happy man for life;" for, as St. Paul said, "No one knows what a day may bring forth," and there is but little room for boasting. In the month of June, in the year 1825, England stood on the highest pinnacle of human glory, with plenty of money, an immense trade, and the envy of every part of Europe, for which see the French papers of the same date. Here was indeed the lofty spirit before a fall. But how soon the gay prospect was blighted; in the very same year the bubble burst with a tremendous crush, laying prostrate establishments which were heretofore considered solid as rocks of adamant; and each man looked upon another with suspicion and alarm, not knowing whose turn it was to go next. Therefore it behoves every man in good circumstances to look to the condition and management of those institutions which are provided for any reverse of fortune.

The following lines are copied from a tomb stone in St. Ann's church yard, Soho, London:—"Near this Place is interred

Theodore, King of Corsica, who died in this Parish, December 11, 1756, immediately after leaving the King's Bench Prison, by the Benefit of the Act of Insolvency, in consequence of which he registered his Kingdom of Corsica for the Use of his Creditors.

"The grave, great teacher! to a level brings
 Heroes and beggars, galley-slaves and kings;
 But Theodore this moral learned, ere dead,
 Fate pour'd its lessons on his living head,
 Bestowed a kingdom, and denied him bread."

In the good old days of Queen Elizabeth, Sir Thomas Smith, in his "Common Wealth of England," writes as follows;—
 "Again the people, not accustomed to see cruell torments, will pittie the person tormented, and abhorre the Prince and the Judges who shall bring in such crueltie amongst them, and the twelve men the rather absolve him; there is an old law in England that if any jayler shall put any prisoner being in his custody, to any torment to the intent to make him an approver, that is to say, an accuser, or index of his accomplices, the jayler shall die therefore as a felon. And to say the truth, to what purpose is it to use torment? For whether the malefactor confesse or no, and whatsoever hee saith, if the euquest of twelve doe find him guiltie, he dieth therefore without delay: and the malefactor seeing their is no remedie and that they bee his countrimen, and such as hee hath himselfe agreed unto, if they doe find him worthy death, yields for the most part unto it, and doth not repine, but doth accommodate himselfe to aske mercy of God."

"The nature of our nation is free stout-hault, prodigall of life and blood: but contumely, beating, servitude, and servile torment and punishment, it will not abide. So in this nature and fashion, our ancient princes, and legislators have nourished them as to make them stout hearted, couragious, and souldiers, not villaines and slaves; and that is the scope almost of all our policie."

And it is to be hoped will ever so remain. Our ancestors were very careful in balancing the meed of punishment in proportion to the offence committed, which is a most important subject in the art of jurisprudence: and so it is as respects the classification of prisoners; the juvenile offender should on all occasions be kept separate from the old, hardened, and experienced culprit, and the prisoners should be divided and treated in a manner suitable to their age, degrees of contamination, and enormity of guilt. As the rudder is to the ship, so is the mind to govern the actions of man; therefore the grand object must be to improve or alter the mind, to give it a different bias and propensity. Such is the system adopted at the Penitentiary, Millbank; the prisoners are kept separated, each has a room, and moral and religious books are distributed among them. They have an opportunity of learning various trades; such as tailoring, shoemaking, &c.; and, by way of encouragement to be industrious, whatever work is done in over hours is placed to their account, and the money is to be received by them on their liberation. It is a pity all prisons were not on a similar plan of reforming the mind. Of what use is the Tread Mill?—It is only a substitute for the old fashioned stocks, and cannot be supposed to make any improvement on the mind: so it is with respect to flogging adults, it only hardens and tends to drive the culprit to commit more heinous offences, in order that he may avoid it. There are, however, criminal characters which deserve our commiseration: the offspring of thieves who have been trained to live by plunder; and the wretched creature who has suffered the sentence of the law, when liberated from prison. Where can he find an asylum? Who will receive him? How can he obtain his bread? he cannot starve; nature tells him he must have bread; then how is he to get it honestly? There is evidently a great want of an asylum for such forlorn beings.

THE FELON.

Oh! mark his pale and haggard cheek,
 And mark his eyeballs' glare;
 And mark his teeth with anguish clench'd,
 The anguish of despair.

Know, since three days (his penance borne)
 Yon Felon left a jail;
 And since three days, no food hath pass'd
 His lips, so parch'd and pale.

"Where shall I turn?" the wretch exclaims;
 "Where hide my shameful head?
 How fly from scorn? Oh! how contrive
 To gain my honest bread?

This branded hand would gladly toil;
 But, when for work I pray,—
 Who sees this mark, A Felon! cries,
 And, loathing, turns away.

In vain for work or alms I pray,
 The scorers all deny;
 I starve, I starve! What then remains?
 This choice—to sin, or die.

Here, virtue spurns me with disdain;
 Here, pleasure spreads her snare:
 Fierce habit drags me back to vice,
 As urg'd by fell despair.

I strive, while hunger gnaws my heart,
 To fly from ill, in vain:
World, 'tis *your* wretched choice! I yield,
 And plunge in guilt again.

There's mercy in each ray of light,
 That mortal eyes e'er saw;
 There's mercy in each breath of air,
 That mortal lips shall draw.

There's mercy for both bird and beast,
 In God's indulgent plan;
 There's mercy for each creeping thing,
 But *man* hath none for *man*!

Ye proudly honest, when you heard
 My wounded conscience groan,
 Had pitying eye, or feeling heart,
One glimpse of *mercy* shown,

That sight had made from burning eyes,
 Sweet tears of peace to roll;
 Had fix'd a heart, assured a faith,
 And heaven had gained a soul."

Education and employment combined, are no doubt the best preventives to the commission of crime, and therefore parents cannot do better than attend to both at the proper time; as education without employment, or certain property, is a dangerous thing. After a suitable education given early, that may assist the further pursuits and progress of your child through life, the next degree comes on at the age of fourteen or fifteen; this is a most important period, and if suffered to pass by without attention and a positive appointment and settlement what profession or

business your son is to follow, with the prospect of earning his daily bread, it is ten to one but that you and your son will have to regret the neglected past time most bitterly the remainder of your days. I know many cases of the misery entailed on families through the above neglect. One happened the other day at the Old Bailey: the Recorder inquired what trade the son was brought up to; "None," was the reply of the father. "Then I suppose you intended your son to be a gentleman?" said the Recorder. The father was a respectable tradesman, he stood before the Court ashamed, and promised to teach and assist his son to the best of his abilities. I am sorry to say the son was then twenty-four years of age, almost too old to learn a trade.

Another case I knew of parents that were altogether too severe; they would not allow their children to associate or have any companions, however respectable they might be. When the father died, the mother was not able to control them in the very strict way in which their father had used to do, and they suddenly broke loose from all restraint, which led them to destruction. A medium way will always be found the best. Likewise by bringing youth too early into society, before they have had time to gain sufficient knowledge of the world, to discriminate between the wheat and the chaff, they have fallen a prey to their own presumptions and bad company, and been blighted in the bud of life. Many parents from over fondness, and proud of the rising talent of their children, have been accessory to their ruin, by leading them too early into fashionable company. There is also great danger in bringing up your son to a professional business, without sufficient means to support him suitably to the situation he is intended to fill in life. How many high-spirited and talented young men are continually cast on society as a burden, not only to themselves, but their friends, for want of sufficient employment through the would-be professional mania of the present age, at the same time that there was ample employment for them, had they been brought up

to their father's trade, which would not have disgraced them, but have made them respectable in society, and comfortable in circumstances. I may say thousands of aspiring young men are daily to be met with, sauntering about at taverns and respectable public houses in London, brooding over the disappointments they have experienced in seeking for a situation, after the hundreds of pounds that have been expended on their education. I have heard many express a deep regret they were not brought up to some mechanical business, whereby they could earn their bread, without being under the disagreeable necessity of continually applying to their friends for remittances, amidst the frequent retorts upon them of the sums of money expended on their education, the talent and ability they possess, and the great surprise that they have not met with employment. These difficulties often lead young men into the company of gamblers; for the sake of killing time, as it is called, they go to the billiard table and card tables, and should they be a little lucky at play, ultimately they become professed gamblers. This accounts for the number of banker's clerks, and the would-be *professionals*, that are to be found at most of the gambling houses: but how any man of fortune, in his senses, can be induced to enter the low Hells, as the gambling houses are termed, is really surprising. On your entry there are three or four men in waiting, who conduct you through dark passages until you come to a strong door, about four inches thick; here is a small grating for the guard placed inside to look through, and ascertain if all is right; the ponderous bolts and bars are unfastened, and the massy door is immediately closed; you then find yourself in a lobby, and another door is opposed to your entry into the Blue Chamber, the same as before; at last you arrive in what is called Hell, and fortunate indeed will you be if you should escape its torments.

The late and extensive robberies, which have been accomplished with such skill and address, and the negotiations which have successfully followed many of them, at once show the

class of men capable of performing such deeds; in fact, where is there any man so calculating, so quick in intellect, elegant in manners and fashion, acquainted with every etiquette of the table, drawing room, and ball room, as the Gambler and men acquainted with the Turf and the Ring? Common place thieves have not, generally, the ability displayed in the late extensive robberies which have been effected, without even a clue to their discovery; and the booty they have obtained cannot be less than fifty thousand pounds, and that within a few months only; and they are still at large to commit as many more. Such sums of money will enable the parties to keep establishments, and move in such a high sphere of life, as will probably lull all suspicion of their being concerned in such vile traffick. Two cases will suffice to shew what can be accomplished by them; the robbery committed at the Swansea Bank, 206 miles from London, and that at Hounslow.—*Times*, Feb. 21, 1828.—“On Sunday night the Swansea Bank was entered, and robbed of property to, we understand, an enormous amount. It is believed that the thieves are of the gang which robbed the Ledbury Bank. The robbery was effected under circumstances which prove that those who committed it were experienced and skilful. When the clerks went to their business on Monday morning, they found every thing apparently in order; the doors of the several apartments, and of the safes and boxes, were all locked; there was no appearance of confusion whatever; but it was soon found that Bank notes, sovereigns, and securities of different kinds, were stolen; in fact, that every thing of value had disappeared. The news of so complete a robbery caused great consternation in Swansea, and it was ascertained that after the thieves quitted the Banking House, they deliberately ordered a coach and four, and drove off with a large box. Persons were immediately despatched after them, they were traced to Bath, where they took two post chaises and separated.”

In the *Times* of the same date:—“On Tuesday morning, about six o'clock, the Hounslow Post Office was robbed in a

singular manner, of about 30 bags delivered by three of the western mails. It is usual to throw the bags into one of the upper windows of the post office, by the guards, while changing horses, where a servant usually waits to receive them; this had been done, and the servant had just left the room to change her cap; in the interim of which some fellows ascended, by means of a clasp ladder, stole the bags, and made off without being perceived. It seems that a light cart had been observed, with a clasp ladder folded behind it, to go through Hounslow several mornings just as the mails were delivering their bags; the fellows in their hurry left the ladder behind them. It is not yet known of what value, or whether of any, the bags may have been; but no blame, as far as we can learn, attaches to the keeper of the post office, who is highly respected in all the neighbourhood."

The above robberies, which have been committed so far from the metropolis, show the necessity of the vigorous measures being used by the police in the various parts of the country, under the superintendence of the Lord Lieutenants of counties. The police offices which I have before recommended to be situated at, or as near as possible to, the first turnpike gates round London, will be of infinite service in watching what is passing on the roads by night as well as by day, and often would lead to a clue of robberies committed in the country.

Sir Thos. Smith observes respecting the government of counties—"And then within certain space they meet again and certifie the Prince or his Privie Councell how they do find the Shire in rule and order, touching those points and all other disorders, there was never in any common-wealth devised, a more wise, a more dulce and gentle, nor a more certain way to rule the people, whereby they are kept alwayes as it were in a bridle of good order, and sooner looked unto that they should not offend, then punished when they have offended. For seeing the Chiefe amongst them, their rulers have this speciall charge, and do call upon it; and if occasion so do present one

or two presently are either punished, or sent to Prison for disobedience to those old Orders and Laws, they take a feare within themselves they amend and do promise more amendment: so that it is a new furbishing of the good Laws of the Realm, and a continual repressing of disorders which doe naturally rest among men.

“But as the invention of this and the use and execution thereof is the most benefit that can be devised for the Commonwealth of England, so when it shall be misused, dissembled with, or be condemned, and be done *pro forma tantum*, and, as they terme it in France, *Par maniere d'acquit* only, it will be the present ruine (though not at the first peceived) of the Commonwealth. Of which the fault may be as well in the commanders for not making good choice, what, and how they command as in the commanded, for not executing that which is commanded.”

Thus we see the necessity and importance that was attached to the condition and order of society all over the kingdom, in the time of Queen Elizabeth; and as long as the Game Laws are in operation, the morals of the country folks will continue to be destroyed. The farmers view the game as vermin which consume a great part of the produce of his land without any recompense; and they will and do sanction and encourage every means in their power to destroy them. Poaching is not therefore considered a crime among the country people, and it holds out a temptation to the labourer to depart from honest pursuits, and spreads idleness and a disrespect towards the government and laws of the realm; as the poor agriculturist, with four or five children cannot, from the low wages he receives for his labour, maintain them without parochial relief; while the poacher lives in ease, and has money to spare. The opulent manufacturers of provincial cities and towns will have game at their tables, if they can by any means obtain it. I have heard stewards regret their Lords did not occasionally make a present of a brace or two to their opulent neighbours, as they were certain, they said, it would be the means of preserving their

Lordships' game from poaching; in fact, what so much produces ill blood, or demoralizes the country people, as the game laws? Very similar are the effects of smuggling; and to what extent has not this offence been encouraged and patronized by the first nobility in the kingdom, since the peace, and during the late war, and would now were it not for the powerful means government have adopted against it, in placing that famous barrier, the Preventive Service men along our shores. Such are the times, that the poor must look only to the government for permanent relief, and protection from arbitrary power: the rich take care of themselves, and the love of country, so much the cant of the day, is rarely to be found, but where interest and property are doubly combined to bring it into operation, in the formation of numerous monopolizing companies, like so many petty principalities in a state, aggrandizing to themselves the fruits of ingenuity, talent, and the exertions of individuals; while they destroy the comforts and independence of the middle classes of society. By way of simile, we will suppose the three classes of society in England to represent a scale beam; the centre or fulcrum, which holds the balance of equity and power, represents the middle class; in one scale the weights, and in the other *The Rascals*, as they were called in Queen Elizabeth's time, and by the Great Burke, "The Swinish Multitude;" but since the march of science, and the application of steam and gas, has worked such wonders, they have obtained a more liberal and proper name—that of "Operatives." Take the centre or prop of the beam away, and you bring the weights and operatives together; and who can tell in these times of ingenuity, industry, and perseverance, but the operatives may, if such an event take place, remove the weights out of the scale, and take possession of the whole machine.

The greatest blessing which any government can bestow on the people, is to afford them the indispensables of life; bread, pure air, light, and a plentiful supply of salubrious water; shelter

from the inclemency of the climate, and fuel at a cheap rate: let bread be cheap; let the greatest blessings from Heaven, light and air, into the poor man's dwelling, free from any restrictions or tax; let pure water be had in abundance to those who cannot afford to pay for it (but this favour will never be granted by any water company without the interference of government); let the poor man be able to obtain a cheap lodging, without having to mix with the depraved and filthy, and sufficient fuel at a cheap rate to preserve him from perishing in a severe season. I have often thought, from the immense increase of consumption in coal, through the introduction of steam and gas, that it would be prudent to examine into the probable quantity to be obtained; for should its supply ever be deficient there would be an end at once to our manufactories. Wherever the necessaries of life are the cheapest, there the operative and labourer are the most happy; such is the case in foreign countries, particularly in *Persia*; to enter a Persian's dwelling (however poor he may be) and not to partake of his bounty would be considered a marked insult; so it would be in England, if the poor had the same means of displaying their wonted hospitality. Here the hand of charity is cramped, the operative or labourer finding it a difficulty to obtain sufficient food and clothing for his family, pay his rent, and to clear his way: he has no gift to bestow; and if he should be out of employ only a few weeks, poverty and absolute want overtake him. There can be no doubt, that such a state of things, where the equilibrium is so finely adjusted between the reward of labour and high price of grain, must, more or less, from severe pressure, lead to the commission of offences. Those persons who have never visited the many portions of London, would not believe it possible that such places would be allowed to remain in such a state of wretchedness and filth; many of them only a few yards distance from the most populous streets and thoroughfares, surrounded in some places by the most respectable neighbourhoods. The very worst which I have visited is the Mint, Borough. A

decent man keeps a small shop there; and to see the miserable creatures come in to purchase a halfpenny-worth of bread, the same of tea, coffee, and other articles, in the most trifling quantities; and to know that this man is absolutely obliged to keep a brace of pistols loaded both day and night to protect his little property; and to hear him say that he never enjoys a night's repose for fear of being murdered, is almost beyond belief; but it is the fact. He lets out two or three miserable houses; and if a grate is put into any room, the next morning it is gone; the same with locks, bolts, or any moveable article. The watchmen dare not go amongst them, except in a body. There are no sewers, or water laid on, only to a few houses; the streets are very badly lighted, and paved like some country towns with the gutter down the middle of the streets: and yet no doubt there are a few honest characters whom necessity has driven to seek a morsel of bread in these filthy abodes.

GAMING.

Gambling is, above all, the most dangerous propensity of human nature. How the nobility of this country can make up their minds to encourage a set of mercenary, hard-hearted, ungrateful, and insinuating wretches, to plunder them of their property without mercy, is really astonishing: one would think they were tired of the pleasures of the world, and wished to commit suicide. What can they expect from men, who with a few pounds have accumulated in a few years hundreds of thousands: where have they obtained it? From your pockets; and how? by watching your progress through life; inquiring into your pedigree, finding out your inclinations, amusements, peccadilloes; the extent of your fortune, and in what it consists; whether in lands, houses, jewels, cash, plate, or pictures; or it matters not in what it consists, as long as it is well ascertained, which they will be sure to have done. Then the bait is laid, the

wines poured out, the ladies dressed; the spider spins his web, and the poor foolish fly is caught and sucked until he is dead to the world. Your lands and houses are mortgaged; your jewels, that would have adorned the person of a virtuous or noble lady, now dangle round the neck of a harlot; your cash is removed from your banker's, and no longer at your command; the silver butler may now be discharged, as the plate closet is empty; and your fine paintings are now caged, and grace the walls of another's house, where now you dare not intrude; while the lawyers wait on you with the deeds and bonds for your signature. The gambler then wishes you good day, and cares not to see you on the morrow. The connexion of these men is in general very bad; they generally keep up a correspondence with the keepers of brothels, and marry their daughters; from such an interlink, what good can you expect from them, while they intrigue with the high dashing kept women of the town to favour their plots and schemes to ruin their protectors? There are about six of these gamblers, who, no doubt, could put down two millions of money if required; twenty years ago they could not have mustered six hundred pounds among them. Such are the goings on in the high fashionable world, as it is termed. Look at the stately and substantial building which has lately been erected, towering with presumption and pride above the palace of our august sovereign, and attempting even to surpass royalty itself in costly elegance and durability of structure; bidding defiance to our religious laws and government; like a painted sepulchre, it covers the ruins of many fortunes and families. It is to be hoped, for the benefit of our young nobility, men of fortune, and the public morals, government will not suffer the next session of parliament to pass without enacting some powerful measures to put a stop to, or materially check, this growing and alarming infatuation for gambling. Is it not surprising that almost exclusively the gambling houses are to be found in St. James's parish? If there were an open vestry, and each constable serving in his own right, and respectable

housekeepers selected to perform the duty, they would take no hush money; and they are invested with great powers to crush gambling houses and those found gambling therein; for which see the instructions given by Mr. Lee, the High Constable, to every peace officer, on his commencing the duties of his office.

In the short time which I have been able to bestow on this humble attempt to offer my mite of information for the good of the public, the public papers have teemed with the heart-rending accounts of the sacrifice of human life to an unprecedented degree, by fires, murders, &c.; the Thames Tunnel; falling of the roof of the Brunswick Theatre, wherein thirteen persons were killed, and fifty-six wounded, and mostly patients in the hospital; and the launch of a vessel full rigged at Manchester, which folly and carelessness occasioned the loss of fifty persons, by drowning; well may we say there never were such times for folly, disaster, and wickedness.

Sir Thomas Smith, in his remarks on the duty of a coroner, states as follows: "The Empanelling of this Enquist and the View of the Body and the Giving the Verdict is commonly in the street in the open place, and in *corona populi*, but I take rather that this name commeth because that the death of every subject by violence is accounted to touch the Crown of the Prince and to be a detriment unto it, the Prince accounting that his strength and power and Crown doth stand and consist in the force of his people and the maintenance of them in security and peace."

The authority of a District Surveyor applies to building the walls of houses of a certain thickness of brick work, according to dimensions stated in the act of parliament (this is done to prevent the communication of fire from one building to another), of which due notice is given by the architect or buikder; and the district surveyor examines the walls, which if found not according to the act as to thickness, &c., they are pulled down, and properly rebuilt. For the above examination the surveyor receives a fee. There is no person but must admire the wisdom of our govern-

ment in adopting so excellent a plan for the preservation of the lives and property of the public, from the devastation of fire; as very few fires that happen in modern built houses communicate farther than in destroying the interior of the house where it originated. So far does the power of a district surveyor extend as to new buildings, which is quite enough for parish affairs, as there is nothing done in parishes without a little accommodation in these matters; and national and public edifices should be placed under a much higher superintendence. The King's Surveyor General, and His Majesty's architects, and those belonging to the Board of Works, which is a government establishment, should have the inspection of all plans and specifications of public buildings before they are erected, and make such alterations in the plans and specifications as they may consider expedient for the safety of the lives of His Majesty's subjects; and every week from the commencement of laying the foundation to the covering in of the roof of the building, one of the above architects, in person (not by deputy), should inspect the works, examine the materials, and see that the particulars of the specification are strictly in operation; and in default of any infringement, or improper materials being used, the said architect to have full power to stop the progress of the works, by application to the nearest police magistrate, when the builder who has committed the error or fault should be summoned to show cause, and the work not allowed to proceed until the mistake or alterations are corrected and perfected, and that to be signified by the architect signing a certificate to the magistrate of his satisfaction of the amendment. When the building is completed, and a week before it is opened to the public, the King's Surveyor General with the architects before mentioned (none under the Deputy Surveyor General, or Clerk of the Works), do proceed and examine the whole of the building, both internally and externally, from the foundation to the roof; and report thereon, by signing a certificate on the spot, and forwarding it to the nearest police magistrate.

Such a regulation would not only be the means of preserving

the lives of His Majesty's subjects, but be the means of preventing the shameful waste of public money, so scandalously exhibited in the giving way of the Custom House, which will cost probably as much money to restore to a state of safety, as the original cost: the same was the case with the Penitentiary, Mill Bank, which has been bolstered up with massy iron bars and screws; and several of the towers have been pulled down, and rebuilt: the whole building is now nearly finished, and forms the most complete model of a prison in England; it was erected under the management of Mr. Humphrey, a very skilful and experienced builder, who likewise superintended the rebuilding of the Custom House (after it gave way); and the falling of that magnificent tower, adjoining Fonthill Abbey, erected at such an enormous expense, are examples of the want of practical knowledge in many of the architects of the present day—such was not the case in Sir Christopher Wren's time. The Palace at Kew, which cost nearly a million of money, was never used; and five poor men lost their lives in pulling it down; and lives were lost in taking down Carlton Palace; while hundreds of poor fellows, from accidents in buildings, are carried to the hospitals, and linger out a wretched life, and their deaths are unknown to the public. A part of His Majesty's Palace, Buckingham House, is taken down to be altered. There certainly wants greater union of opinion and co-operation among His Majesty's architects, which would prevent the many accidents, absurdities, bad taste, and glaring mistakes, which are now so apparent.

The substantial erections of Saint Katharine's Docks are an exception to many modern speculations in building, and will remain for centuries as a proud monument of British skill and industry. Mr. Philip Hardwick is the architect; Messrs. Bennett and Hunt are the contractors and builders; Messrs. Petty, Messinger, Ness, Woodyatt, and Ruddach, are the Clerks of Works; and numerous Foremen are employed under them, thus uniting the talent of the architect with the exertions of men of extensive ex-

perience. The portable centres, newly invented, for carrying the revolving groins, may with truth be called St. Katharine's stays that support the body of the building, and are well worthy the inspection of any nobleman or gentleman engaged in erecting a mansion. I must here differ with the opinion of Mr. Nash, respecting the character of a Clerk of Works, which was given by him before the Finance Committee, in July, 1828. Mr. Nash is pleased to denominate a Clerk of Works a common man: I should consider a man who is entrusted with the execution of the plans of an architect, and in all cases acts as his deputy, to be worthy of respect: In the absence of the architect who is to direct the works, and see that proper materials are used, and the various branches of trade properly performed, but the Clerk of Works? therefore it is of the utmost importance to inquire into the necessary attainments, and practical knowledge, and respectability, of men who have to conduct and superintend the carrying forward a building until it be completed.

The dreadful accident at Manchester, which caused the loss of so many lives, arose from an act of the greatest folly perhaps ever heard of; to launch a vessel with the mast and all the rigging fixed, and no ballast, with four hundred persons on deck; What could be expected but that the least bias would turn her over! Those who have travelled must remember the many accidents which formerly took place, by over-loading coaches with passengers, or a pile of luggage on the roofs; but since our government have passed an act to check the height of the luggage on the roofs of coaches, and restricted the number of passengers, very few accidents now occur; indeed it is to government only the public can look or hope for a remedy of our greatest grievances; and while our government punishes crime, and discourages vice and folly, it is to be hoped they will remove every stumbling block and impediment out of the way of those who endeavour to live by honesty, sobriety, and industry, by lightening the burdens that press heavily on the middle class of society, whose property, and trade, and circumstances, are

continually exposed to changes and losses; and by rewarding those who contribute by their abilities, or otherwise, in any way, towards the good of the public. Mr. Brougham, who has studied and laboured greatly to amend and improve the state of the law, and its administration in the courts of justice, delivered in the House of Commons, on Thursday, the 7th of February last, a speech which occupied eight hours in delivery; the following is copied from the concluding part of his wonderful and learned address: "Crowns and Sceptres, in my view, have no more happy incidents than that they enable the wearers and the holders not to conquer, but to preserve; not to subdue by arms, but to secure affection, by pre-eminent utility; it was the boast of Augustus (and it casts its lustre through the shade of cruelty and perfidy that deformed his rule), that he found Rome brick, and that he left it marble; how much loftier and noble may be the boast of our King, if this great undertaking be completed, that he found Law dear, and he made it cheap (hear, hear)—that he found it a sealed book, and left it a living letter (hear, hear)—that he found it the patrimony of the rich, and left it the inheritance of the poor (hear, hear)—that he found it a two edged sword in the hands of craft and oppression, and left it the staff of the honest, and the shield of the innocent (loud cheers)—To me, much reflecting on these subjects, it has always seemed that there is no prize of ambition which a man can honestly covet, so desirable as the glory of having been the humble instrument of directing the attention of the Legislature to these high matters. I value it far above office, whose patronage would be irksome, whose emolument I disregard; content, like the rest of my industrious countrymen, with providing by the labour of my own hands for my own necessities" (repeated cheers).

FOREIGN POLICE OFFICE.

The Alien Office when under the superintendence of Mr. Capper, was conducted in a liberal, and at the same time cautious and vigorous manner. If any tradesman had dealings with a foreigner he could, without the least reserve, obtain his address, and from the long time Mr. Capper had superintended this useful office could obtain any information as to the character the individual bore in his native country, by applying in time for such information. Many tradesmen have saved their thousands, while others, less prudent in making so necessary an inquiry, have lost thousands, and then have gone to the Alien Office for advice, and found to their sorrow, when too late, how they had been duped out of their property by high sounding titles accompanied with secretaries, appendages, and equipage, made up for the purpose of humbugging John Bull. What will my countrymen think of the extraordinary management of the Alien Office since Mr. Capper has been pensioned? If you apply now to obtain the proper name and address of a foreigner, you cannot have it without writing to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, stating your reasons, and giving every particular for so doing: this often occasions a delay, which gives a dishonest foreigner time and opportunity to obtain his passport (which by the present mode of proceeding cannot be refused) and leave the country before any lawful measures can be taken. When arrived at Calais he may turn round and laugh at the credulity of Englishmen, in parting with their goods so freely, and without a respectable reference. Does not this alteration open the door wider for the admission of (such as may be called) foreign swindlers and sharpers?—and what objection can there be to have the names and address, both abroad and in England, of every foreigner

on his arrival, registered alphabetically for the use of the public at the Alien Office? The French government manage their police much better; so particular are they in watching the movements of foreigners, that the tradesmen in Paris are often apprised of an English tradesman's arrival at *Calais*; from such early intelligence they are ready to meet him on business when he alights from the diligence at the hotels in Paris. There is no country in the world where capital is more required than in England to carry on business, or business (from a variety of circumstances) more precarious than that of an English tradesman, particularly in London, and therefore the Government should render them every protection and facility of information, that may be required for the interests and security of trade. Having occasion lately to make inquiries for a friend, respecting a foreigner, I went to the Alien Office for that purpose, the answer I received was "they were not allowed to give his address, but my friend might leave a letter at the office for him, and they would forward it,"—after a few days an answer was returned, with his address in Paris, but no address in London was given; this at once shows the evasion that a foreigner may make use of under the existing alien laws.

Far be it from me to create evil suspicion respecting the characters of foreigners in general; I have had the pleasure of knowing many of them for twenty years past, living in the greatest respect, and esteemed by their neighbours; very peaceable in their manners, humane, and charitable; and I verily believe also well wishers to the country which has given them protection, and where they have prospered. Yet we are aware that many foreigners have crossed the British Channel since the Peace, not for the purpose of tasting the roast beef of England only, but to find out the too confiding and credulous Englishman, and impose on his generosity, by insinuating themselves into his affairs, and getting them so entangled with their own intrigues, that many have been obliged to pay dearly

before they could get rid of their foreign acquaintances, and their fondness for foreign fashions have been their total ruin. I have known this infatuation carried so far, as even to the exclusion of their old English friends, and cherishing a thorough contempt for English manners and customs.

Having promised in the introduction to this work, to give a short Sketch of my Progress through Life, I will do so in as brief and clear a manner as I possibly can; and I trust it may be of service to young aspiring tradesmen, who will remember the old proverb, "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." My late father and mother were born at Stourbridge, in Worcestershire; my father left Stourbridge at an early age, with his relatives, and settled in Bristol; but being of an inventive and speculative mind, he came to see the wonders of London: he was brought up a mechanist and lock smith, and understood every branch connected with the art. Finding the buckle trade was a more lucrative business at that time, he turned his attention to improving the buckle chape, and obtained the last patent granted by His late Majesty, George III. for his invention; the merit of his patent consisted in allowing the buckle to play freely with the bend of the foot, which removed the inconvenience so generally complained of in other buckles; viz., the pressure on the joints of the foot. My father was joined in partnership with Mr. Skidmore, a silversmith, and Mr. Vardon, a jeweller; they successfully carried on the business, until one of those untoward circumstances, which destroys the prospects of many an ingenious and industrious tradesman (through fickle and capri-

cious fashion) suddenly took place; alas! the buckles, those elegant and neat ornaments to a pretty foot, were changed into a paltry string. Had Messrs. Day and Martin been then in existence, their matchless blacking, perhaps, would have added such a beautiful contrast as would have prevented the ladies from dispensing with such a valuable ornament of their beautiful and graceful forms, and preserved hundreds of thousands of families from ruin. Then followed the hair dressers, and leather breeches makers, button makers, &c.; the number of persons thus thrown out of employment by the change of fashion alone, could not be less than one million. This will show the necessity of tradesmen engaged in the manufacture of any article of fashion, making hay while the sun shines, and not placing too great a confidence on its durability; at the same time it offers an opportunity for our nobility and gentry to patronize those fashions which give the greatest scope of employment to the people, and thereby benefit the country at large. This great change in the buckle trade made bankrupts of my father's partners, and left him to look round him for another way to get his bread. The art of bell hanging was scarcely known, and my father turned his attention to its improvement; in which he succeeded, and carried it on to the day of his death with great success. During part of this time I was not idle; the celebrated bronze and or-molu manufacturer, Monsieur Decaix, having no family, I was made their adopted son; there I learned a business but little known in England, and succeeded in ornamenting my father's work, and carrying on the business jointly with him; and I took a trip to Paris, to examine their mode of working in bronze, or-molu, &c.: but poor Decaix had been too liberal to his countrymen, in giving numbers of them employment and excessive wages, which kindness, I am sorry to say, was returned by the most ungrateful and cruel usage that ever a man received. This, and illness combined, brought his once flourishing business to ruin; and he died very distressed, and forsaken by his countrymen.

My father and myself were appointed bell hangers to her late Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte of Wales, so greatly and deservedly lamented; and we hung the bells at Warwick House, in the year 1811; and the appointment was renewed when her Royal Highness was united to his Royal Highness the Prince Leopold of Saxe Cobourg, in the year 1817, which high honour I retain to this day, and have hung the bells on my improved plan at Claremont. My bronze and or-molu works have been likewise honoured with the patronage of His Most Gracious Majesty, and the first nobility, connoisseurs, and architects, in the kingdom. About this time, my sister, to whom I was left as trustee, formed an acquaintance with Mahommed Ali, the Persian engineer, sent to this country for improvement, and was ultimately married to him in the year 1819, at St. James's Church, and accompanied her husband to Persia; this connexion, and my works that have been sent there, brought me an appointment to his Royal Highness the Prince Abbas Mirza, as water gilder; and since then another appointment, as commission agent to his Royal Highness. If these honourable appointments had brought money it would have been fortunate; but as it is, the confused state of Persian affairs, and the difficulty of sending out goods and of obtaining money for them safely in return, has been hitherto rather a hindrance to my success than any real benefit, although the Prince entertains the highest opinion of the English government, and purchases from Europe only English manufactured goods, and has engaged my sister to instruct all his daughters in English accomplishments; in which pleasing task she has been engaged with success for the last seven years, at the Royal Court, at Tabriz, in Persia.

My bronze business led me to an acquaintance with Mr. Joseph Goodwin, His Majesty's Veterinary Surgeon. I was engaged by him to make models of horse shoes in bronze after his own improved methods, for which see his work on a new sys-

tem of shoeing horses, published 1820, page 303; but finding after they had been made, sold, and distributed to all parts of the globe, that there was an evident want of ability in the workmen to follow the models correctly, I endeavoured to surmount the difficulty by obtaining His Majesty's Royal Letters Patent for the introduction of malleable cast iron horse shoes, which discovery so pleased Mr. Goodwin that we commenced a partnership, and carried the business on to a considerable extent, having sent out orders to almost every part of the world; and the first sporting characters, noblemen, and gentlemen of the turf, have patronized them: the following names will suffice; Nimrod, Mr. Ward; the Dukes of Portland, Grafton, and Bedford; and also many of the first veterinary professors at home and abroad. But how uncertain are the brightest prospects in life; in the midst of our proceedings I was informed by Mr. Goodwin, that he had notice from a high quarter, that his engaging in business was contrary to the established rules of Carlton Palace; and Mr. Goodwin said, he had no other alternative than to dissolve partnership with me, or to give up his situation which he held under His Majesty. Thus I was left to sustain the whole burden of the business on my own shoulders. This disappointment brought on a crisis in my affairs, and all the fruits of my study and industry for twenty years were hurled headlong to destruction, for the benefit of lawyers, auctioneers, &c. Should the Government and the Public think well of the exposition I have given, and the preventives I have suggested for the prevention of the frequent occurrence of fire, and to check crime, I shall feel happy in having been the humble instrument of doing something towards the preservation of life and property; and shall be ready to attend any applications, from principals only, by letter, post paid, relative to any articles that may be required that are recommended in this publication, and on confidential affairs of business.

THE END.

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